

10 March 2009

The Research Director, LCARC
Parliament House
George St
Brisbane Qld 4000

Preamble to the proposed Queensland Constitution
Individual Submission

This is not a submission of something to be included. It is a plea for something to be excluded.

When our former Prime Minister published his draft preamble to the Australian constitution, he included in it the phrase *under God*.

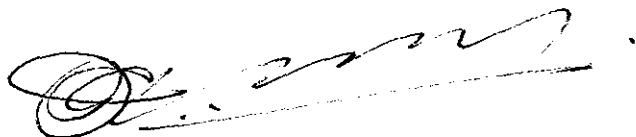
I objected (though I happened to be a believer in God).

My grounds were that

- belief in a god is not a condition of Australian citizenship;
- many Australians do not believe in a god;
- many Australians worship a different god from the Christian god implied in the Draft;
- a non-believer, or a non-Christian believer, is just as much an Australian as a Christian believer;
- a constitution, including its preamble, should be inclusive, whereas the phrase *under God* could make it divisive.

I claimed that, if there were only *one* Australian who was a non-believer or a non-Christian believer, the phrase could make that citizen feel excluded and should therefore not be used.

I submit the same arguments now in respect of Queensland.



JB Farrell
