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LEGAL, CONSTITUTIONAL AND
ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW
COMMITTEE

154

13 March 2009

The Research Director
Legal Constitutional and Administrative Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Sir/Madam

PREAMBLE FOR THE QUEENSLAND CONSTITUTION

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the draft Preamble to the Queensland Constitution. Archbishop John Bathersby has requested that I respond to your letter to him.

In preparing this submission, a number of Archdiocesan advisors and agencies have been consulted and a variety of views have been put forward.

One consistent view that has been expressed is that a preamble ought to be forward looking, anterior and antecedent to the document for which it is proposed.

To this end, it is proposed that rather than prepare a preamble to the Constitution of Queensland, that the Queensland Parliament make a declaration on the 150th Anniversary of the State of Queensland that is forward looking, self confident and all-embracing for all Queenslanders, putting behind us past limitations, conflicts, injustices, divisions and distinctions.

Further, it is strongly felt that reference to God and religious traditions and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples should be included in this declaration.

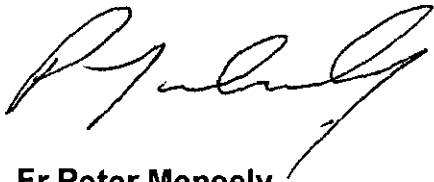
Therefore we suggest that the declaration, in a spirit of reconciliation, should recognise the contribution of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the occupants and custodians of this land when this colony of Queensland was first established and that we honour their traditional customs which still enrich this land.

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We also suggest that the declaration acknowledge that amongst those traditions, shared with those who formed this colony, is a commitment to the spiritual heritage and religious traditions that continue to inspire and direct us.

I trust that this information is of assistance to you.

Yours in Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Meneely', written in a cursive style.

Fr Peter Meneely
MODERATOR - ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE