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12 May 2009

The Research Director
Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee
Parliament House
George St
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Sir

I write regarding the call for submissions relating to the preamble to the Queensland Constitution.

To recognise only the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people in any proposed changes to the preamble of the Queensland Constitution is to discriminate against all other Queenslanders regardless of their birth places.

We need to recognise that we are all Queenslanders regardless of the colour of our skin, creed or ancestry.

Any preamble that isn't put to the people to vote on is unconstitutional and is a waste of time and money.

Any money spent on a referendum to get a preamble for the constitution would be a waste of state monies. There are more important and pressing needs for that money.

If you can't find a more worthy reason to spend money on than creating a preamble, you should not be in a position where you have any say on what our state monies should be spent on.

One of the reasons the preamble to the Australian Constitution was rejected by Australians, and Queenslanders, was, in my opinion, because of the mention of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people.

Most of the 67% of Queenslanders who voted NO to the preamble to the Australian Constitution in 1999 would undoubtedly vote NO to a preamble to the Queensland Constitution. Either the people wanting a preamble to the Queensland Constitution are stupid, don't intend getting it ratified by a vote, or have some clandestine reason for doing it.

If you want to pay respect to the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people who live in Queensland, do it a more practical way.

Nothing in a preamble, or written on the wall of the local toilet block will change where we were born, or for that matter, where we were born, or to whom we were born.

Let's spend our time and money on ways to assist us all to lead happy, healthy and successful lives.

If you didn't take any notice of the referendum for a change to the Australian Constitution, or the issues paper of June 2004, then it is obvious that you are not listening, heeding, or understanding what you are being told.

Or, is it a case that we have to keep on going through this useless exercise until we "get it right".

The so called "consolidated Queensland Constitution" under Premier Beattie was never ratified by referendum, and until it is, the changes are actually unconstitutional and subject to challenge.

A constitution of a country is a document imposed by the people to control the actions of the politicians and bureaucrats, and is not a document for the politicians or bureaucrats to alter at will to suit their own wishes and desires via an act of parliament.

Similarly, a constitution of a club is a document imposed on the executive by the members to control their actions and to avoid any usurping of power or excesses and is punishable by law. Unfortunately, our founding fathers didn't foresee the depth of skullduggery that future politicians would steep to, and the need for punishments to be set.

The prolonged consultation suggested would financially line the pockets of legal and government bureaucrats who could be more gainfully employed, or perhaps not employed at all.

If you re-read the responses dated 19 May 2005 on Page 6 you will see that nothing has changed in the past four years, and the persons responsible for re-igniting this inquiry should have their services terminated at the first possible opportunity.

The apology to the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people by Kevin Rudd, over 12 months ago does not signal a need to change our Constitution.

Previous changes to the Australian Constitution have been misinterpreted and the most glaring case in point was when we voted on a Song for Australia. We voted for Advance Australia Fair, but it quickly became our National Anthem. That is not what we voted for.

I suggest we put this idea on the backburner until we fix some of the more pressing problems facing the citizens of Queensland today.

Yours faithfully



(Mrs) P A Pitt