



**SUPREME COURT OF
QUEENSLAND**

CHAMBERS OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE

RECEIVED

13 MAY 2009

**LEGAL, CONSTITUTIONAL AND
ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW
COMMITTEE**

Your Ref: 11.1.10
Our Ref: 1:192

168

11 May 2009

Ms Barbara Stone MP
Chair
Legal, Constitutional and Administrative
Review Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Law Courts Complex
304 George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

PO Box 15167
City East QLD 4002
DX 40168

PH 61 7 3247 4279
FX 61 7 3247 4206
www.courts.qld.gov.au

Dear Ms Stone

**Call for submissions – a preamble for the Queensland Constitution and
modernisation of oaths and affirmations**

I refer to your letter of 7 May 2009.

Because the form of a preamble for the Queensland Constitution would not be a matter of concern to the court as an institution, I do not consider it appropriate that I make any comment on that.

As to the judicial oath or affirmation of allegiance and office, the current form encapsulates relevant matters and in relatively contemporary language. If there is to be any redraft, and I do not presently see any need for it, then it would be extremely important to retain reference to the notions of doing "equal justice to all persons", discharging the duties of the office "according to law", and doing so "without fear favour or affection". These are matters which go to the heart of judicial duty, and are well understood notions.

Yours sincerely

The Hon P de Jersey AC
Chief Justice