



Hon Desley Boyle MP
Member for Cairns



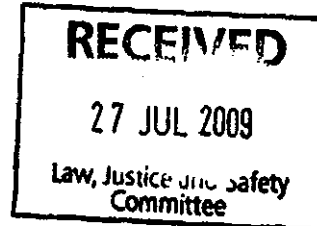
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Government

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Our reference: COM 03711-2009

Minister for Local Government and
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Partnerships

27 JUL 2009
Ms Barbara Stone MP
Chair
Law, Justice and Safety Committee
Parliament House
GEORGE STREET BRISBANE QLD 4000



By hand
11:40am.

Dear Ms Stone

The Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Council comprises highly respected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders who are considered pre-eminent in their respective fields of expertise, especially in their knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. You have sought their advice for wording to recognise Indigenous Queenslanders in the proposed preamble to the *Queensland Constitution 2001*.

As earlier advised, the Advisory Council supports the inclusion of a preamble in the Constitution recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Most recently it has considered the revised draft wording for the preamble provided by your Committee in late June.

Your proposed wording has been reviewed and members require it to be more culturally atoned to both Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples and therefore the term '*first inhabitants*' needs to be replaced with '*First Australians*'. Additionally, the Advisory Council requests that your Committee's wording of 'which add depth to and enrich the life of our community' be replaced with 'which deepen and enrich the life of our community'.

The wording for the Preamble for the Constitution required by the Advisory Council is as follows:

Honour the Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the First Australians, whose lands, winds and waters we all now share; and pay tribute to their unique values, and their ancient and enduring cultures, which deepen and enrich the life of our community.

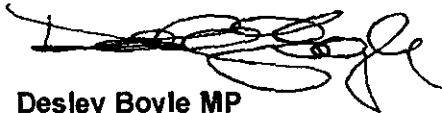
Given the expertise and cultural authority of the Advisory Council, I ask that you accept this recommended wording in full without further amendment.

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The Advisory Council thanks your Committee for the opportunity to provide advice on this important and historic matter for Indigenous Queenslanders.

If you require any further information or assistance, please contact Ms Meg Frisby, Principal Advisor within my office on 3227 8820 or Ms Pauline Peel, Deputy Director-General, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships on 3235 9495.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Desley Boyle', written over a horizontal line.

Desley Boyle MP
Minister for Local Government and
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
Member for Cairns