



**Legal, Constitutional and
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The Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee is a committee of the Queensland Parliament with a broad range of law reform responsibilities. The committee is established under the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* (Qld).

Media Release

No preamble for the Queensland Constitution – at this stage

The Queensland Constitution should not contain a preamble at this stage according to a Queensland parliamentary committee.

The Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee of the Queensland Parliament asked the people of Queensland whether the Queensland Constitution should have a preamble and, if so, what that preamble should say. Submissions received from 134 people and organisations suggested that, although the enactment of a preamble to the Queensland Constitution would create an opportunity for a strong unifying statement of the aspirations and values shared by Queenslanders, finding consensus about those values and aspirations would be a very difficult task.

Reasons for the committee's conclusion include:

- insufficient public support and consensus;
- concerns about the legal effect of a preamble;
- queries as to whether the extensive consultation required to develop the form and text of a preamble is an effective use of resources; and
- the likelihood of having to revisit any preamble if there is a change to a republican system of government.

Dr Lesley Clark MP, Member for Barron River and chair of the committee, says, "The committee's decision not to recommend a preamble will no doubt disappoint many members of Indigenous communities and organisations that responded to the review." Indigenous people and organisations suggested to the committee that a preamble could be a vehicle for reconciliation, providing constitutional recognition of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders.

Dr Clark says, "The committee has sympathy for that view, and we note a recent amendment to Victoria's Constitution recognising Aboriginal peoples."

"A similar substantive amendment to Queensland's Constitution is an alternative mechanism to that of a preamble which could be considered by the government in the interests of further fostering reconciliation with Indigenous Queenslanders."

The committee's report is available on its website, or from the committee secretariat.

Dr Clark is available for interviews on 0412 117 742. For background information, contact Kerryn Newton at the committee secretariat on 07-3406 7909.