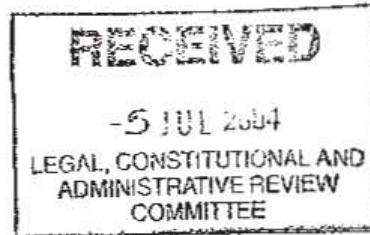


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July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2004

Dr. Lesley Clark MP  
Chair  
Legal Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee  
Parliament House  
George St.  
Brisbane 4000

Dear Dr. Clark,

Thank you for the invitation to make a submission to your committee on the topic of a preamble to the Queensland Constitution.

Normally I am happy to assist in any way with the important and valuable work which your committee undertakes.

However I am bound to say that a preamble is, by far, the least important need for reform to this State's Constitution.

The following matters are much more urgent –

A. Four year terms for Parliament:

The Queensland Premier's attitude to this leaves much to be desired and Queensland urgently needs a four year term for the good governance of the State. Virtually every other State has 4 year terms and also almost every other Westminster parliament in the world has longer than 3 years. The Premier of Western Australia (the only other State with 3 year terms) told me he is seriously contemplating a referendum next year. You may be aware that I drafted the Referendum case and Questions for the New South Wales 4 year term referendum and would be happy to offer any advice.

B Ministerial Responsibility:

Although supposed to be the cornerstone of Westminster democracy, Ministerial Responsibility to Parliament is in a sorry condition in Queensland and measures are urgently required to strengthen it.

C Accountability and Freedom of Information :

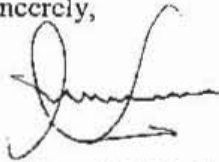
We have a very serious situation in this state with the abuse of FOI by governments of all persuasions, and also the abuse of "Commercial in Confidence" arrangements, together with lack of proper regard for the role of the two Parliament Officers -the Auditor-General and the Ombudsman.

D. Constitutional Recognition for Local Government:

Long overdue, this needs to be revisited soon. Local government is a major partner in Queensland's governance and economic and community development, and needs to be fully recognized in the State's Constitution

Can I suggest to the members of your Committee that these are far more important matters requiring Constitutional Review than the preamble to the Constitution, and I hope you will address them in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Wiltshire', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Professor Kenneth Wiltshire AO  
J.D.Story Professor of Public Administration  
UQ Business School.