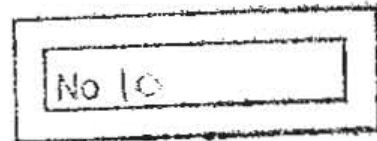
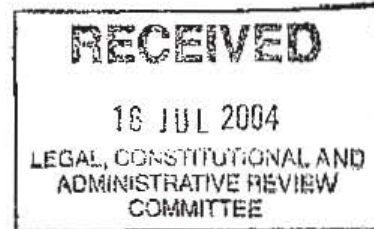




CHAMBERS OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE



Your Ref: Spec 46
Our Ref: 1-192



15 July 2004

Dr Lesley Clark MP
Chair
Legal, Constitutional and Administrative
Review Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Dr Clark,

I refer to your letter of 17 June 2004 inviting my view on a possible preamble for the Queensland Constitution. Opinions on whether there should be a preamble and its contents, are essentially personal. In that vein I remark that, with regard to the QCRC draft, I would omit the first suggested sentence, since it seems merely discursive and unnecessary; and the second because its accuracy is questionable, at least.

I would rewrite the third to put it into more positive language, so that it might read:

"We, the people of Queensland are free and equal citizens under the Rule of Law,
and governed in accordance with the democratic processes contained in this
constitution."

I would omit the fourth sentence of the suggested preamble, since it also seems unnecessary.

I would support the inclusion of the fifth, sixth and seventh sentences of the current draft.

Yours sincerely

The Hon P de Jersey AC
Chief Justice