

Tania Jackman

From: Claire Cottone [cald@yanq.org.au]
 Sent: Tuesday, 24 August 2004 10:34 AM
 To: LCARC
 Subject: preamble to qld constitution - feedback

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25 AUG 2004

LEGAL, CONSTITUTIONAL AND

Hi and thanks for the opportunity to participate in the consultation.

I couldn't get the feedback form to work for me so I just thought I'd put a few thoughts in an email. There are a couple of points about which I feel strongly.

Firstly I believe that the preamble must refer to the sovereignty of Aboriginal traditional owners and their continuing relationship with and custodianship of the land.

Even better would be an express acknowledgement that Aboriginal people were forcibly dispossessed of their land and that sovereignty was never passed over to the British colonisers. No treaty was ever negotiated or signed.

Secondly, a reference to "Almighty God" should not be inconsistent with an acknowledgment of Queensland's cultural diversity - that is to say, there are many Queenslanders with a wide range of spiritual and religious beliefs and I believe that it would be absurd to refer to one "almighty god" with this in mind. I think it would also be absurd to use this phrase out of convention. What percentage of Queenslanders believe in one 'Almighty God' and live according to this belief?

Any reference to cultural diversity should acknowledge Aboriginal culture as the primary culture of the land and therefore cultural diversity includes Anglo-Celtic culture.

Regards,
 Claire

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 Claire Cottone
 Multicultural Development Officer
 Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc
 30 Thomas Street
 West End QLD 4101
 Phone: (07) 3844 7713
 Fax: (07) 3844 7731
 Email: cald@yanq.org.au
 Web: <http://www.yanq.org.au>

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