



MRS SALLY-ANNE IRVINE

16 August 2004

The Research Director

Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE Q 4000

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: A Preamble for the Queensland Constitution

As a concerned Queenslanders, I have looked at this issue of adding a preamble to the Queensland Constitution. Following are some comments that I would like to make:

1. Why do we need a preamble?

The Queensland Constitution has never had a preamble, however, if such an addition is to become apart of our Constitution then it should be approached very carefully. I am concerned that the original intention of those who first put our Constitution together may be lost.

2. Should the preamble make reference to God?

I believe very strongly that if a preamble is to become apart of the Constitution, then reference should be made to God. I would like to see **particular** reference made to God, of the Christian faith, such as in the Federal Constitution.

3. Should the preamble recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and if so, how?

The preamble should include recognition of all people within our State, not just one particular group or culture. If we are to say we accept people, regardless of culture, then no one group should be recognised more than another.

I am concerned that if one group is recognised more than another, regardless of culture, then how can we say we are being fair and equal towards each person who belongs to our State? I also believe that we are all stewards of the land, that God has given us.

4. Should the preamble refer to gender equality?

Men and women should be considered equal. Both men and women have contributed greatly to Queensland.

5. System of Government

The preamble should make reference to the fact our system of government is a constitutional monarchy. I believe this is very important.

The Constitution should be recognised in the preamble, if a preamble is added, but with careful consideration, so that the constitution is not to be made to say something it was never intended to say.

6. Should a Referendum be held to insert a preamble into the Queensland Constitution?

If a preamble is to be included then sufficient time should be allowed for the general public to comment. The people of Queensland need to be made aware of the issue and to know exactly what is being proposed and why.

I think a referendum would be valid, as the people of Queensland should be apart of the decision making process. I cannot see why an interim preamble should be adopted without the people of Queensland being apart of the process.

We live in a state of opportunities and in a free country. In making changes to our state constitution, I believe we need to firstly bring the issue before Almighty God in prayer and be very careful about this issue of adding a preamble.

Yours sincerely,



S Irvine