

No 90

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From: Gregory Fraser []
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LEGAL, CONSTITUTIONAL AND
ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW
COMMITTEE

27 August 2004 From Greg Fraser, 14 Leslie Pde, Stanthorpe 4380

Dear ICARC,

I wish to forward a short submission on the discussion of the preamble of the Queensland Constitution. In particular on the question relating to God.

I do not pretend to have expertise in this area but simply offer my own opinion.

1 - The words 'God' and 'Almighty God' refer to the God of the Bible. It always has. We are the country and State that we are because of the particular background and history of those who colonised Australia. There is a mindset and set of values which had been shaped by the Christian Bible. This set of values resulted in a country with certain and particular laws and Constitution.

2 - So to include the words 'Almighty God' most logically and honestly mean the above.

3 - To change that to a pantheistic god of all religions is a radical and major change. Such a notion of a 'god' representing all faiths (as distinct from all denominations of the Christian religion) may sound nice and unifying at a shallow level. However it betrays a gross lack of appreciation for the religions it proposes to speak for. Here is a simple test (I tried it once); Christians believe that Jesus is God. Try telling a Muslim that Jesus is Allah. I assure you that "true believers" both Christian and Islamic cannot, logically, be unified by a so called common notion of 'god.' A closer look at religions will reveal that they say very different things about who God is.

4 - I think that our State Constitution should retain the words 'Almighty God' and that it mean what it always has meant. This has and does unify the vast majority of Australians (look at the census) and it defines us within a particular social, ethical and moral heritage. While people of other faiths are welcome here, the fact remains that we are what we are because of a different set of fundamental values. When looking at States and Nations across the globe it is patently clear that basic values shape nations and people's welfare. I am grateful to 'Almighty God' for the values which shaped this country and unify it. To take this from a country or State and replace it with a god who stands for nothing or contradiction would be a titanic loss. Let us avoid the abyss.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission.

Greg Fraser