

No 97

RECEIVED  
27 AUG 2004  
LEGAL, CONSTITUTIONAL AND  
ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW  
COMMITTEE

In the spirit of reconciliation I would like to apologise for the failure of my great-grandfather Speaker Hon. H. E. King to recognize that he was opening the parliament on indigenous land and for any racist statements he may have made whilst acting as a member of the Queensland Parliament.

Following discussions with friends who are indigenous Australians it has been made clear to me that an oral statement by the Speaker of Parliament would have more meaning to them than words written in a preamble to the constitution.

I therefore submit that the constitution should be altered to provide for the Speaker of the Queensland Parliament to lead in observing a minute's silence at the opening of each Parliament on behalf of the indigenous people according to the following statement:

**We pay our respects to the traditional owners of this land.**

**We respect the rights of those people of aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage and their sacred connection to the land.**

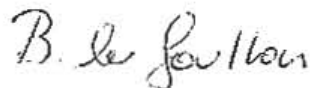
**Will we all now please bow our heads for a minute's silence in memory of those indigenous people who perished as a consequence of the immigrant settlement that pioneered the modern state of Queensland?**

I support the inclusion of the following phrases from the issues paper on the preamble in any preamble to the Queensland constitution.

*"In a spirit of reconciliation, we recognize the contribution of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the original occupants and custodians of this land.*

*We declare that we respect the land and the environment we all share."*

Yours sincerely



Bernadette le Goullon  
27/7/04