

**Information
Commissioner**
QUEENSLAND

No 126

Telephone (07) 3005 7100
Facsimile (07) 3005 7099
Email infocomm@infocomm.qld.gov.au
Website www.infocomm.qld.gov.au

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- 3 SEP 2004

LEGAL, CONSTITUTIONAL AND
ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW
COMMITTEE

Your ref:

Our ref:

DJB:MT

2 September 2004

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

Dear Dr Clark

A preamble for the Queensland Constitution?

Thank you for your letter dated 17 June 2004, and the copy of your Committee's Issues Paper on "A preamble for the Queensland Constitution?".

As your Issues Paper recognises, a preamble to the *Constitution of Queensland 2001*, is not necessary.

Overall, I agree with the arguments in support of the value of a preamble that refers to:

- the sovereignty of the people exercised through a representative democracy
- a government accountable to its electors and respectful of the rule of law.

To my mind, these are the bare essentials.

However, as a public official, I do not wish to comment on some of the issues which, politically, might not command universal acceptance in the Queensland electorate.

I will leave to others, and your good judgment, the competing claims in respect of the more symbolic and aspirational topics covered in your Issues Paper.

Yours faithfully



D J Bevan
Information Commissioner