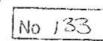
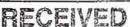


Member for Mulgrave

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LEGAL, CONSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

16 SEP 2004

QueenslandGovernment

Minister for Communities and Disability Services

Dr Lesley Clark MP
Chair
Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee
Parliament House

George Street BRISBANE OLD 4000

The Honourable Warren Pitt MP

Dear Lesley

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on an Issues Paper prepared by the Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee to explore issues relating to the development of a preamble for the Queensland Constitution. I note that my Director-General, Ms Linda Apelt has already provided comments to your committee on behalf of Disability Services Queensland.

I strongly support suggestions made within the Issues Paper that this important matter be determined in consultation with the people of Queensland. I understand that officers from the Department of Communities have provided earlier information to the committee regarding possible strategies for engaging a wide cross-section of Queenslanders in discussing relevant issues.

I noted with interest that a number of matters relating to the purpose, nature and content of a preamble are of relevance to the vision and work of the Department of Communities and Disability Services Queensland including:

- · the values and aspirations of Queenslanders;
- · recognition of Indigenous peoples;
- recognition of cultural diversity;
- equality before the law; and
- gender equality.

Should the Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee resolve to engage Queenslanders in developing a preamble to the Queensland Constitution, I would support the broad discussion of these matters. I would also like to suggest that any such discussion consider whether the preamble might also refer to the unique nature of Queensland's diverse regions and the importance of strong and inclusive communities which value people of all ages and of diverse abilities.

As you are aware, staff from the Department of Communities have particular expertise in engaging community members in a range of government matters. I would like to nominate Dianne Jeans, Executive Director, Innovation and Development Branch on 3224 7453 as a contact officer should the committee require further information on these matters.

Yours sincerely

JUPIL

Warren Pitt MP
Minister for Communities, Disability Services and Seniors

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