

**DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION**

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Submission NO 49

12 May 2000

Mr Gary Fenlon MLA  
Chair  
Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee  
Parliament House  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Fenlon

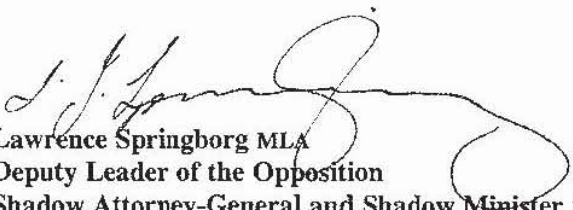
**Review of the Queensland Constitutional Commission's Recommendation for Four-Year Parliamentary Terms**

This letter serves as the response from the National Party as a whole to the question put in relation to recommendation 5.2 of the QCRC: that the maximum term of the Queensland Legislative Assembly be extended to four years with a fixed minimum period of three years.

The National Party's takes the view that this issue was canvassed in – and rejected at – the 1991 referendum on four-year terms for State Parliament conducted by the Goss Government. It does not appear to be an issue in the community that is regarded as urgently requiring attention. Our view is that the people have given no indication of willingness to add another year to parliamentarians' time in office, having soundly defeated that concept in 1991. Nothing material has changed in the intervening nine years. No argument therefore exists for a further expensive referendum.

As a consequence, our recommendation to the Committee is that no further action be contemplated at this time on the question of a referendum for a four-year term for State Parliament, or upon the QCRC's consequential recommendation for a fixed minimum period of three years.

Yours sincerely



Lawrence Springborg MLA  
Deputy Leader of the Opposition  
Shadow Attorney-General and Shadow Minister for Justice  
Member for Warwick