

GENERAL COMMENTS.

**Affirmative action is a zero net sum game, in other words if one group wins another loses. In this case for a small perceived gain the loss would be democratic parliamentary system that the State now enjoys.*

What at this stage may make a few non aboriginal people feel good can only end in disaster in the cold hard light of day and the greater likelihood is that the very people that this type of exercise was designed to help will be worse off.

Can this affirmative action push be stopped at aboriginal representation. What about other minorities such as Islamics, Hindus, homeless people or other ethnic groups within the community.

How do you draw the barrier?

This exercise although no doubt well intentioned has the potential to be grossly counter productive.

It does no credit to its initiators or sponsors who are the group most likeley to gain.

BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION

1. What are some of the reasons that Indigenous peoples are underrepresented in the Queensland Parliament?

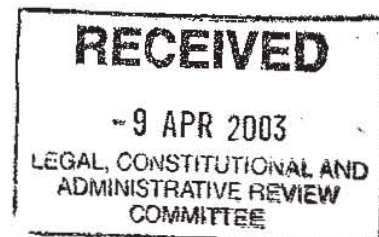
They don't stand. Regular political parties don't nominate them.

The only party to successfully do so was the National Party when Joh was Premier.

There are presently no barriers to aboriginal people entering the Queensland Parliament. Anyone who is a voter in the State can nominate for election.

2. What are some of the reasons that Indigenous people might choose not to be involved in Queensland's Parliament and government?

Probably for the same reason that most other queenslanders are reluctant to become involved. Perhaps the duplicitous lifestyle doesn't appeal.



3. What factors make it difficult for Indigenous people to participate in Queensland's system of democracy?

None that relate specifically to Indigenous people.

STRATEGY 1: ENHANCE PARTICIPATION IN THE EXISTING PROCESSES

4. Is more civics education and voter education targeted specifically to Indigenous people necessary?

No. It is a recognised fact that indigenous people are every bit as politically savvy as any of their counterparts. This is particularly so for the for the Islander population. To suggest otherwise gives little credit to these people.

5. What other strategies might promote greater participation by Indigenous people in the existing democratic process? *None. The assumption that they need help in this regard is degrading.*

STRATEGY 2: DIRECT INPUT INTO PARLIAMENT

6. Would avenues for bodies which represent Indigenous people to have direct input into Parliament enhance the participation of Indigenous peoples in the Parliament?

There are already Government funded Aboriginal and Islander bodies that are professional lobby groups. These compete with other unfunded lobby groups. Eg ATSIC and the National Farmers.

7. Is it a good idea to enable bodies which represent Indigenous peoples to have direct input into Parliament? Why or why not?

No. Unless you are prepared to offer the facility to other community groups. As a lone concession it would be counterproductive.

8. If a representative body with direct input into Parliament was to be established how should it operate?

For example:

- **Who should be on the representative body?**

- What forms of direct input should the representative body have?
- What else would be necessary to ensure Parliament considered matters raised by the representative body?

Pass

STRATEGY 3: AN ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ASSEMBLY

9. Would an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Assembly contribute to the participation of Indigenous people in the democratic process in Queensland?

No. I don't think this type of apartheid is productive. Over whom would the ATIS Assembly have jurisdiction. Would it be subordinate to the Queensland Parliament and if not what would be its status.

10. Is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Assembly a good idea? Why or why not?

No. simply because it would be ineffective, divisive and probably costly.

11. If an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Assembly was to be established, how should it operate? For example:

- How should members of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Assembly be selected?
- What would be the specific role and functions of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Assembly?
- How should the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Assembly have input in the Queensland Parliament?
- What else would be necessary to ensure the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Assembly contributed to representation of Indigenous people?
- Would one Assembly be appropriate, or should there be separate Assemblies for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders

Pass again

STRATEGY 4: DEDICATED SEATS

12. Would dedicated seats enhance the participation of Indigenous people in the democratic process in Queensland?

No, but it would be the end of representative government in Queensland.

13. Are dedicated seats a good idea? Why or why not?

No. For the reasons already given

14. If dedicated seats were to be introduced, how should they operate? For example:

- **How many dedicated seats should there be?**
- **In what ways, if any, should the role and functions of members in dedicated seats differ from members in other seats?**
- **How should members in dedicated seats be selected?**
- **Should people who vote for members in dedicated seats also be able to vote for members in their general electorate?**

The end result of this is a State within a State and the result is quite frankly dangerous.

15. Should there be a referendum about the introduction of dedicated seats?

Of the whole of the electorate YES.

STRATEGY 5: CHANGES TO THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

16. Should Queensland's electoral system seek to achieve representation of minority groups in Queensland?

NO

17. Should the electoral system be reviewed to ensure that it is the most effective electoral system to represent the diverse interests of the Queensland community?

That's what it does now

18. Would a different electoral system be likely to ensure greater representation of Indigenous peoples?

NO

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

19. What other strategies could be used to enhance the participation of Indigenous peoples in the democratic process in Queensland?

Basically exclude non indigenous "do- gooders" from the indigenous scene and recognise that indigenous people do have their own inherent abilities and give them the right and the dignity not to be considered a handout community, which concept is essential to the continued existence of the industry.

20. What strategies or combination of strategies would best achieve enhanced participation of Indigenous peoples in the democratic process in Queensland?

The ones that presently exist without the existence of the industry.

G. McDONALD,