

No 28

Peter Mc Mahon,

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10 APR 2003

LEGAL, CONSTITUTIONAL AND
ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW
COMMITTEE

7 April, 2003.

Clerk,
LCARC,
c/- Parliament House, Brisbane Q 4000.

Dear Clerk,

I am not aware of the terms of reference of this committee but have heard some radio coverage of the response to the idea of having certain state seats of parliament set aside for native Australians. This is not the answer but there is a simpler and better solution.

I spent nearly 20 years in the field of Aboriginal development within this state, most of it at Cherbourg where I was the initiator and one of the driving forces behind the establishment of the emu farm, abattoir, tanneries, the TAFE College, the motel, farming expansion initiatives etc. While I was at Cherbourg, the community won an award for community economic development from the Australian Local Government Association.

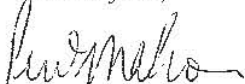
I have developed a web site to address the particular spiritual, cultural, philosophical and community development issues that surround any progress to be made by Aboriginal Australians in this country. (www.treaty.com.au). Please refer to this site as a more complete submission to this issue.

Essentially I raise one only consideration at this stage and I am sure it is the relevant point to make. Aboriginal tribal boundaries have always closely approximated those of local government. There is scope for allowing each local government community in Australia (this could start in Queensland) to reserve a space for a councillor to represent the Aboriginal citizens of that community. It would be up to the Aboriginal people to put a name forward and for them to vote for that person or persons. This would replace ATSIC.

In this way, each and every community has the input of an Aboriginal person if one comes forward. There is no veto right for this person on any issue but simply a voice in local government and a chance for the native community to have a say. This is the most pressing issue raised by elders over many years.

I would be happy to expand upon any of these points. Jim Fouras is my referee.

Thank you,



Peter Mc Mahon.

Ed. I have spoken briefly to Jim Fouras re this matter.