



Queensland
Government

Department of Main Roads

Our ref: DG6384

Your ref: 11.1 HoP 2007

12 JUN 2007

Mrs Dianne Reilly MP
Chair
Legal, Constitutional and
Administrative Review Committee
Member for Mudgeeraba
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mrs Reilly

Re: Evaluation of Hands on Parliament Recommendations

I refer to your letter to the Honourable Paul Lucas MP, Minister for Transport and Main Roads, about the interim evaluation of the "Hands on Parliament" recommendations. The Minister has asked that I respond on his behalf.

The implementation of the "Hands on Parliament" recommendations for the advancement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' involvement in the democratic process is strongly supported by Minister Lucas, Mr Bruce Wilson, Director-General of Queensland Transport and myself.

I understand Mr Colin Neville, Principal Advisor (Strategic Directions) from the Department of Main Roads spoke with Ms Julie Copley, Acting Research Director (Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee) to clarify the input you were seeking. Ms Copley advised that information on education, employment and training initiatives undertaken by the departments of Transport and Main Roads (the portfolio) were most likely to be of some importance to the outcome of building the capacity of indigenous individuals and groups to become more involved in the democratic process.

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The portfolio provides indirect assistance to the achievements contained in your consultation paper sections 3.13 (enhanced and inclusive civics education) and 3.25 (employment and training in democratic institutions and processes). The enclosure to this letter provides an overview of the portfolio initiatives that are considered useful in enhancing participation and interest in the democratic process by Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders.

Should your office wish to discuss the information provided or to look further at what the portfolio is doing that may contribute to the outcomes of the "Hands on Parliament" recommendations, please contact Mr Neville on 3120 7263 or by email colin.b.neville@mainroads.qld.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Alan Tesch
Director-General

Enc (1)

DG6384 - Evaluation of Hands on Parliament Recommendations

Below is an overview of the Queensland Transport and the Department of Main Roads initiatives with the objectives of educational and employment and training opportunities for Aboriginal peoples' and Torres Strait Islanders'. The portfolio does not claim that these initiatives directly assist the goals of the "Hands on Parliament" Recommendations.

Queensland Transport and Main Roads are committed to being partners in the Queensland Government's program for the provision of whole-of-government outcomes that address the many disadvantages affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples'.

Queensland Transport

The Queensland Transport policies and programs developed and implemented in this area include:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Driver Licensing Program. To assist communities to identify, develop and maintain community based educators (CBE's) who will in turn assist members of their respective communities in obtaining their learner licence and subsequently their driver's licence.
- Education 2 Employment Scheme. Queensland Transport supports Year 10-12 indigenous students at school in work experience, supervisory capacity, mentoring and monetary assistance to introduce them to the working environment and supporting them in their studies.
- Indigenous Cadetship. Currently two indigenous people are undertaking tertiary funded study that includes a 12 week placement with Queensland Transport.
- Torres Strait Marine Safety Program – Stop, Think, Survive. The objective of the program is to raise awareness and improve the boating safety culture. The desired outcome of the program is to inform, increase awareness and influence the cultural acceptance and use of boat safety equipment in the Torres Strait region. The program initiatives aim to:
 - reduce the incidence of lost seafarers
 - increase the survival of lost seafarers
 - increase community and industry commitment to safety in the Torres Strait region.

Main Roads

The Main Roads policies and programs developed and implemented in this area include:

- The provision of capacity building, training and employment opportunities in remote and rural areas through:
 - an innovative Alliance model to engage 'Aboriginal peoples' as partners on construction projects in the provision of services, specific skills training and employment
 - a remote communities services unit based in the peninsula district to provide mentoring and training in infrastructure construction skills for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples'
 - traineeships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander graduates.
 - the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education to Employment Scheme. Main Roads coordinates this program for the whole-of-government.