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COMMITTEE



Queensland  
Government

10 JUL 2007

Please quote: CTS 03885/07  
Contact officer: Stefan Preissler  
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Department of  
Natural Resources and Water

The Honourable Dianne Reilly MP  
Chairperson  
Hands on Parliament Evaluation  
Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mrs Reilly

I refer to your letter of 5 April 2007 concerning the Interim Evaluation of Hands on Parliament Recommendations.

Thank you for bringing the review to my attention and inviting the Department of Natural Resources and Water (NRW) to make a submission.

NRW can provide information on the topic "Employment and training in democratic institutions and processes" as follows:

NRW has a Workplace Diversity Plan 2005-2008 in place. The plan has been developed to ensure, for the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) target groups, that there is equality of employment opportunity and no unlawful discrimination. One of the EEO target groups are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. The plan sets out targets for the specific target groups. NRW's target for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders for 30 June 2008 is 2.1%. The whole-of-government target is 2.4%. The Department currently employs 52 Indigenous officers (1.4%).

In 2005 and 2006 three out of 13 trainees in NRW identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. The current number for 2006 and 2007 is one out of four trainees.

In addition, NRW is offering cadetships to Indigenous university students through the National Indigenous Cadetship Program (NICP). The NICP is an initiative of the federal Department of Employment and Workplace Relations. Cadetships are available in disciplines such as land, water and natural resource management, forestry, environmental science and water related fields.

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The other issues included in the evaluation lie outside the Department's core business.

I wish you well with conducting the Interim Evaluation of Hands on Parliament Recommendations and trust it will contribute to improved participation of Indigenous people in Queensland's democratic processes.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Stefan Preissler, Team Leader, Indigenous Services, of the department on telephone 3406 2329.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Scott Spencer".

Scott Spencer  
**Director-General**