

Media Release



Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee

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The Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee is a committee of the Queensland Parliament with a broad range of law reform responsibilities. The committee is established under the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*.

NO ENTRENCHMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY

The monarchical system of government should not be entrenched in the Queensland Constitution, according to a Queensland parliamentary committee.

“The committee has concluded that, while the issue of a republic remains on the public agenda, it cannot endorse entrenching by referendum sections of the Constitution which relate to the constitutional monarchy,” says Karen Struthers MP, Chair of the Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee.

The committee has been examining which parts of the Queensland Constitution should be entrenched and tabled its report on this issue in the Parliament today. Entrenched laws are those that cannot be amended by the normal law-making procedure. The purpose of entrenching constitutional provisions is to give primacy to the Constitution.

The committee’s report identifies certain essential elements of the Constitution which should be referendum entrenched at the appropriate time, such as provisions about the Legislative Assembly, the appointment and removal of judges and the system of local government. However, the committee does not consider that any provisions relating to the constitutional monarchy should be referendum entrenched.

“Unless compelling justification for an earlier constitutional referendum arises, any further consolidation or referendum entrenchment of the Constitution should be delayed until the Queensland Parliament seeks a republic referendum,” says Ms Struthers.

The issue has been considered as part of the committee’s review of the Queensland Constitutional Review Commission’s February 2000 report.

The committee’s report which is titled *Review of the Queensland Constitutional Review Commission’s recommendations regarding entrenchment of the Queensland Constitution* can be found at [<http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Committees/>](http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Committees/).

For background information, contact the committee secretariat on 3406 7307. Karen Struthers is available for interview on 0417733702.