



ELECTORAL COMMISSION  
QUEENSLAND

30 May 2002

The Research Director  
Legal, Constitutional and Administrative  
Review Committee  
Parliament House  
George St  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

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COMMITTEE

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Dear Ms Newton

I have reviewed the issues paper on specific content issues relating to the Queensland Constitution. Section 13, Statutory Office Holders, is the only section on which I wish to comment.

At the outset, I would point out that any consideration of the issues in Section 13 should include both the Electoral Commissioner and the Deputy Electoral Commissioner. Both offices are defined as "senior electoral officers" in section 3 of the *Electoral Act 1992* and are subject to the same appointment and removal processes.

The current provisions for appointment and removal of the Electoral Commissioner and Deputy Electoral Commissioner have been in place since the *Electoral Act 1992* commenced in June of 1992. To date there has been no apparent concern regarding the enacted arrangements. Similarly, appropriations to the Commission for the conduct of its business have been sufficient for all purposes specified in the legislation. Moreover, the scrutiny of the Budget has engendered a performance culture within the Commission that is both transparent and necessary.

I have no difficulty with the approaches advocated by the Constitutional Review Commission (QCRC). They deal with concerns that might affect the perception of the wider public and as such, are valid. If the QCRC recommendations were to be implemented they could be expected to have an impact on public perceptions and I consider that their implementation would be practicable. However, the recent history of the appointment of Electoral Commissioners and the Deputy Electoral Commissioner and the provision of resources of the Commission would indicate no need for change. There has not yet been any need to test the current provisions for removal of one of these statutory officers.

Mrs Aurisch, the Deputy Electoral Commissioner, endorses this response and we would be happy to discuss our views with the Committee should they wish.

Yours sincerely



R L LONGLAND  
Electoral Commissioner



QUEENSLAND

