

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2007

The Research Director  
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Parliament House  
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Ref: The Accessibility of Administrative Justice

The adage "after all is said and done, there is usually more said than done" is clearly the situation in Queensland legal matters, supported by the following facts supplied by LCARC.

Commonwealth Legislation commenced 1976 followed by similar legislation in the ACT and two other States.

EARC in 1993 identified 131 appeal bodies in Queensland.

PCEAR recommended that merit review reform take place slowly! Thirty one (31) years after the Commonwealth Legislation commenced, Queensland is no further advanced.

These matters were revisited in 1999 and 2004 when the Minister for Justice advised inter alia, "the matter is under review" and "would be the subject of forthcoming legislation."

The Committee in November 2006 sought advice from the Minister for Justice who took five months (28<sup>th</sup> March 2007) to advise that "while no reforms in this area are currently underway in 2007 ....."

The Queensland Government recently moved with what could be described as "lightening speed" to reduce some 156 Local Government Councils to 72 by urgent Legislation but after 31 years, is still talking about Administrative Justice.

The remedy is at hand. Stop the talk and commence the implementation. If the Commonwealth, ACT, New South Wales and Victoria have implemented appropriate Legislation, are Queensland citizens condemned to a second rate Legal System.

  
Yours sincerely, Thomas J Mahon.