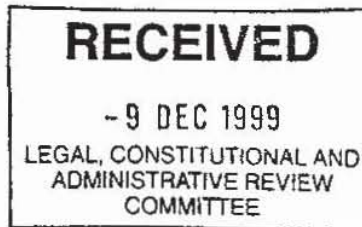


1 December 1999



Mr Gary Fenlon MLA
Chair
Legal, Constitutional & Administrative Review Committee
Legislative Assembly of Queensland
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Submission No 3 Spec 23.1

Dear Mr Fenlon

Re: The Role of the Queensland Parliament in Treaty Making.

I refer to your letter to me of 17th November 1999, suggesting that I make a submission to your Committee on its draft proposals in relation to the role of the Queensland Parliament in treaty making.

My brief comments are set out below.

Committee Proposal 1

I would support this proposal. In addition, I suggest for the Committee's consideration that:

- The proposal might require the Premier to table the prescribed material as soon as possible after receipt, in place of the requirement to "periodically table" the materials.
- The proposal might require or encourage the Premier also to report on the views of the Queensland Government on treaty proposals that affect Queensland or that affect the State's sphere of authority within Queensland. Alternatively, or in addition, the proposal might require the Premier to table the outcomes of a meeting of the Treaties Council.

Committee Proposal 2

I agree that there is no need for a separate parliamentary committee on treaties. I query, however, whether a report on aspects of the treaty process might not be made to an existing committee: possibly the Legal, Constitutional & Administrative Review Committee itself. The purpose of such a report might be to raise substantive issues for Queensland arising out of particular treaties or to consider the adequacy of the treaty-making and consultation process itself. I note from the Committee's position paper that the Queensland Intergovernmental Relations Directorate has a leading role in the treaty consultation process. The Committee might consider whether the Directorate should be invited or required to report annually to the Committee in relation to this aspect of its work.

Committee Proposal 3

I agree that the value of an interparliamentary working group on treaties is unlikely to outweigh its costs in terms of time and other resources.

I hope that this is helpful. I would be happy to answer any questions which the Committee may have.

Yours sincerely,



Cheryl Saunders
Director