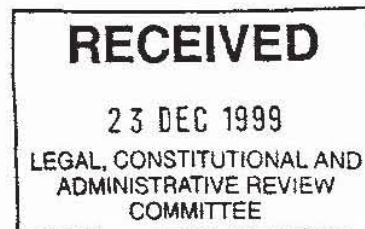


RESPONSE TO LCARC POSITION PAPER NO. 1 ON THE ROLE OF THE QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT IN TREATY MAKING.

FROM



ADDRESSING: PROPOSALS 1, 2 AND 3.

BECAUSE

Submission No 15.
Spec 23.1

1. The W.T.O. appears to be the major current source of treaties bearing on trade (in its widest possible application), and it will be back to business next year.
2. W.T.O. treaties routinely incorporate a standard set of principles that aim to prevent any action to help local businesses or employment opportunities in preference to foreign competitors.
3. These restrictive treaties (to remove restrictions from trade by placing them on government) will continue to be presented to us by the Commonwealth.
4. The best watchdogs for treaty provisions adverse to State or Shires, or calling for federal clauses or for exclusions, are Queenslanders and from diverse political backgrounds.

It seems to me that

PROPOSALS 1 & 2

Treaties should be scrutinised (a) at the earliest possible moment and (b) by an all party body. (The integrity and ability of the Premier's Department officers would certainly be no less than that of such a body - but the span of political outlooks would be quite likely to be less, while J.S.C.O.T - Senators notwithstanding - is still a federal body.)

PROPOSAL 3.

Given that strong commonwealth resistance to state and territory requests could be expected, mutual support among the states and territories would be important: if not an inter-parliamentary working group then strong liaison between state and territory parliamentary committees - or sub-committees - would be desirable.

As a final comment: one form of pressure on the federal government would be an electorate made aware of the effects of treaties by their State MsLA, who are better placed than anyone to educate or alert their constituents.

Signed
D.C. HEGERTY.

