



Hon. Rod Welford MLA

**Minister for Environment and Heritage and
Minister for Natural Resources**

Submission No 16

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Mr Gary Fenlon MLA
Chair
Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Fenlon

Thank you for your letter of 17 November 1999 concerning the role of the Queensland Parliament in treaty making.

The following information is provided in response to the items raised in the position paper produced by the Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee is as follows:

The presentation of proposed treaty information to the Queensland Parliament

I support the Committee's recommendation that the Premier periodically table a schedule of treaties under negotiation, as well as other treaty information such as National Interest Analyses. The process would play an important role in informing both Parliament and the community of treaty developments and implications.

A Queensland treaties committee

I share the Committee's reservations about establishing a separate Treaties Committee of the Queensland Parliament or including specific treaty responsibilities in the area of responsibility of an existing Committee. The resourcing costs associated with this proposal would not be met with equivalent benefits.

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The establishment of an inter-parliamentary working group on treaties

An inter-parliamentary working group would largely duplicate the work of the Standing Committee on Treaties, and as such, would not be an effective use of State resources. I agree with the Committee's view that various existing mechanisms, together with the proposal to periodically table a schedule of treaties in Parliament, provide sufficient access for Parliamentarians and the community to information on treaty making.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rod Welford', written over a horizontal line.

ROD WELFORD MLA