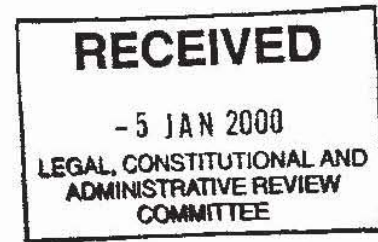




QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND



Submission No 17
Spec 03.1.

24 DEC 1999

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

Dear Mr Fenlon

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee's Position Paper No. 1, *The Role of the Queensland Parliament in Treaty Making*.

As the Committee's paper points out, the reform of the treaty making process in 1996 has provided States and Territories with greater opportunities to have input into the treaty making process. While the recently completed review of the 1996 reforms recommitted the Commonwealth to consultation with States and Territories, it is disappointing that it made no specific recommendations in relation to the Treaties Council. I have recently written to the Prime Minister supporting the NSW Premier's suggestion that a Treaties Council be held on March or April 2000.

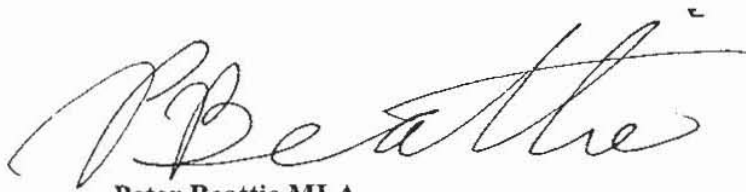
In relation to the three Committee proposals outlined in the paper, I support the Committee's positions in relation to proposals 2 and 3. The adoption of these two proposals would result in significant duplication of effort, as well as a reallocation of limited parliamentary resources.

With regards to proposal 1, I support in principle the Committee's recommendation that I be required to periodically table treaty information in the Queensland Legislative Assembly. The provision of such material will provide Members with the opportunity to have greater access to information regarding Australia's current and future treaty negotiations.

However, there will be a need to clarify the frequency of tabling of information and the level of detail required, as this may have significant resource implications for my Department. I suggest that you contact Mr Chris Goodreid, Executive Director, Intergovernmental Relations Directorate from my Department to discuss these matters further. He may be contacted on (07) 3224 4082.

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to comment on the Committee's proposals and I trust this information is of use to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "P Beattie". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Peter Beattie MLA
PREMIER