



Speech by

**GARY FENLON**

**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

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Hansard 16 March 2000

**LEGAL, CONSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE**  
**Queensland Constitutional Review Commission Report**

**Mr FENLON** (Greenslopes—ALP) (10.10 a.m.): On 29 February 2000 the Premier tabled in the House the Queensland Constitutional Review Commission's report on the possible reform and changes to the Acts and laws that relate to the Queensland Constitution. The QCRC's report not only incorporates the Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee's previous work on consolidating the Queensland Constitution but also makes recommendations about substantial issues of constitutional reform.

When tabling the QCRC's report, the Premier stated that he tabled the QCRC's report for LCARC's consideration and reporting. The Premier also indicated that, while LCARC is considering the report, the Government will consider the QCRC's recommendations and in particular Cabinet will examine options for the possible introduction of four-year terms as recommended by the QCRC. The Premier further indicated that the Cabinet might make a decision on the four-year term issue before the committee brings down its report.

In light of the committee's previous inquiry into the consolidation of the Queensland Constitution, the committee's statutory area of responsibility about constitutional reform and the Premier's statement in the House, the committee has resolved to review and report to the Parliament on the QCRC's report in two stages. In Stage 1 we will inquire into two areas that we see as particularly pressing.

First, given the Premier's statement regarding the four-year term issue, we shall review and report on the QCRC's recommendation 5.2 that the maximum term of the Legislative Assembly be extended to four years. Second, we shall separately review and report to Parliament on the recommendations of the QCRC which we consider to be consolidatory and/or relatively non-controversial in nature, that is, capable of achieving bipartisan political support and likely widespread community support, and which we think it desirable to implement.

Our aim is for Queensland to have a modern, easy to read consolidated Constitution in the short term. On that basis, amendments to these provisions of the Queensland Constitution which are currently entrenched or the QCRC's recommendations regarding entrenchment will not be addressed as part of the consolidation exercise. We will be calling for public submissions on both the four-year term issue and the consolidation exercise in the near future.

In Stage 2 of our inquiry we will review and report to the Parliament on the remainder of the QCRC's recommendations as the committee sees appropriate at that time. We are conscious that constitutional reform remains one of the Government's priorities and we shall endeavour to report on Stage 1 of our inquiry at the earliest opportunity.

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