



Queensland
Government

Premier of Queensland

Please quote: N/A/DM11/IGS

25 **OCT 2000**

Mr R Doyle
Clerk of Parliament
Parliament House
Alice Street
BRISBANE, QLD 4000

Dear Mr Doyle

I refer to the Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee's (the Committee) report no. 22, *The Role of the Queens/and Parliament in Treaty Making*, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 19 April 2000. I wish to provide the Government's response to the report for tabling.

The Government's response to the recommendations in the Committee's report are embodied in a letter to Mr Gary Fenlon MLA, Chair of the Committee, dated 5 October 2000. Please find attached a copy of this letter for tabling.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours sincerely

[Original Signed]

Peter Beattie MLA
PREMIER

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- 5 OCT 2000

Mr Gary Fenton MLA
Chairperson
Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee
Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Fenlon

Thank you for your letter of 19 April 2000 concerning the tabling of the Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee's report no. **22**, *The Role of the Queensland Parliament in Treaty Making*. While I have previously indicated my principle support for the Committee's proposals in my response to the Committee's position paper (no. 1), I now wish to formally respond to the Committee's recommendations.

I would like to confirm that all the recommendations contained in the report that relate to the Government's responsibility are to be adopted. I note that recommendations 2 and 3 relate to proposals not to establish certain bodies and parts of recommendations 1 and 2 are matters for the Legislative Assembly to determine.

In relation to recommendation 1, I propose to table advices which I receive periodically from the Commonwealth Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Treaties (JSCOT) concerning proposed treaty actions, that have been tabled in both Houses, together with the relevant national interest analyses, within 10 working days of their receipt.

I note, however, that proposed treaty actions under review by JSCOT are placed on its website. In view of the LCARC's objective of facilitating members of Parliament and the community generally to make submissions to JSCOT on treaty negotiations and the short timeframe usually given for making submissions, it may be more timely to access the information via the website. Developments in telecommunications may render the process of tabling copies of documents, that are already accessible electronically, inefficient. This communication feature should be considered in the proposed review of the procedural requirements for tabling treaty information by LCARC after two years of operation.

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In relation to recommendation 2, I propose to insert into my Department's annual report, as a standing feature, a report on key issues for Queensland arising from particular treaties or the treaty making process during the reporting period. I propose to commence this report feature in the 2001 annual report.

The aspects of recommendations 1 and 2 that relate to sessional orders and amendments to the Legislative Assembly's Standing Rules and Orders are, of course, a matter for the Parliament to determine. However, I support these recommendations and suggest that you liaise with the Leader of the House, The Hon Terry Mackenroth MLA on their implementation.

Yours sincerely

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**Peter Beattie MLA
PREMIER**