



Speech by

Barbara Stone

MEMBER FOR SPRINGWOOD

Hansard Thursday, 3 September 2009

LAW, JUSTICE AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Reports

Ms STONE (Springwood—ALP) (10.21 am): I lay upon the table of the House two reports of the Law, Justice and Safety Committee. Firstly, I table report No. 70, *A preamble for the Constitution of Queensland 2001*.

Tabled paper: Law, Justice and Safety Committee Report No. 70: 'A Preamble for the Constitution of Queensland 2001'[\[831\]](#).

This report contains a draft preamble prepared by the committee for the Constitution of Queensland. The preamble includes an aspirational statement on the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the establishment of Queensland and a statement of due recognition of Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The preamble captures important core aspects of today's Queensland—elements which will continue to be relevant for future generations, such as sovereignty of the people and the rule of law, our system of representative and responsible government, our multicultural population, our environment and our history. Importantly, the preamble acknowledges and honours Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and pays tribute to their ancient and enduring cultures, a significant step in the ongoing reconciliation process.

I would like to thank the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Council for meeting with the committee and providing submissions on the statement of recognition. The committee has accepted its proposed wording of the statement of recognition in full without amendment. I thank those submitters and those who otherwise contributed to the inquiry, either by meeting with the committee or appearing at the public hearing or the public forum. I acknowledge and express my appreciation for the work of all members and staff of both the current and previous committees in the preparation of the draft preamble.

The committee recommends the following preamble be inserted into the Constitution of Queensland 2001—

The people of Queensland, free and equal citizens of Australia, subject to no law or authority but that sanctioned by this Constitution and the Constitution of Australia;

- intend through this Constitution, to foster the peace, welfare and good government of Queensland; adopt the principle of the sovereignty of the people, under the rule of law, and the system of representative and responsible government, prescribed by this Constitution;
- honour the Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the first Australians, whose lands, winds and waters we all now share; and pay tribute to their unique values, and their ancient and enduring cultures, which deepen and enrich the life of our community;
- determine to protect our unique environment;
- acknowledge the achievements of our forebears, coming from many backgrounds, who together faced and overcame adversity and injustice, and whose efforts bequeathed to us, and future generations, a realistic opportunity to strive for social harmony; and

- resolve on this the 150th anniversary of the establishment of Queensland, to nurture our inheritance, and build a society based on democracy, freedom and peace.

I also table report No. 71, *Options for modernising the oaths and affirmations of allegiance in the Constitution of Queensland Act 2001*. This report recommends that the oaths and affirmations of allegiance be amended so that persons about to assume office must pledge allegiance to Australia and to either the Sovereign as Sovereign of Australia or to Australia's Head of State. I thank those submitters and those who otherwise contributed to the inquiry, either by meeting with the committee or appearing at the public hearing. I acknowledge and express my appreciation for the work of all members and staff of both the current and previous committees in the preparation of the report. I commend both reports to the House.

Tabled paper: Law, Justice and Safety Committee Report No. 71: 'Options for modernising the oaths and affirmations of allegiance in the Constitution of Queensland Act 2001' [\[832\]](#).