

1998-99

The Parliament of the
Commonwealth of Australia

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Presented and read a first time

Constitution Alteration (Preamble) 1999

No. , 1999

(Prime Minister)

**A Bill for an Act to alter the Constitution to insert a
preamble**

Contents

1	Short title	1
2	Commencement	1
3	Insertion of preamble	2
4	Effect of preamble	2
Schedule—Preamble to the Constitution		3

1 **A Bill for an Act to alter the Constitution to insert a**
2 **preamble**

3 The Parliament of Australia, with the approval of the
4 electors, as required by the Constitution, enacts:

5 **1 Short title**

6 This Act may be cited as the *Constitution Alteration (Preamble)*
7 *1999*.

8 **2 Commencement**

9 This Act commences on 1 January 2001.

1 **3 Insertion of preamble**

2 The Constitution is altered by inserting after the Title the preamble
3 set out in the Schedule to this Act.

4 **4 Effect of preamble**

5 The Constitution is altered by inserting after section 125 the
6 following section:

7 **125A Effect of preamble**

8 The preamble to this Constitution has no legal force and shall not
9 be considered in interpreting this Constitution or the law in force in
10 the Commonwealth or any part of the Commonwealth.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

Schedule—Preamble to the Constitution

Preamble

With hope in God, the Commonwealth of Australia is constituted as a democracy with a federal system of government to serve the common good.

We the Australian people commit ourselves to this Constitution:

proud that our national unity has been forged by
Australians from many ancestries;

never forgetting the sacrifices of all who defended our
country and our liberty in time of war;

upholding freedom, tolerance, individual dignity and the
rule of law;

honouring Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders, the
nation’s first people, for their deep kinship with their lands
and for their ancient and continuing cultures which enrich
the life of our country;

recognising the nation-building contribution of generations
of immigrants;

mindful of our responsibility to protect our unique natural
environment;

supportive of achievement as well as equality of
opportunity for all;

and valuing independence as dearly as the national spirit
which binds us together in both adversity and success.