



Hon Paul Lucas MP

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23 JUN 2011

Senate Standing C'ttee  
for the Scrutiny  
of Bills



**Queensland  
Government**

Deputy Premier and Attorney-General  
Minister for Local Government and  
Special Minister of State

Our ref: 536602/1; AG/11/00849

Senator the Honourable Helen Coonan  
Chair  
Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Bills  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator

Thank you for your letter of 28 March 2011 inviting a submission to the Committee's inquiry about the future direction and role of the Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Bills. I apologise for the delay in responding.

In Queensland, section 4 of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992* (Qld) establishes fundamental legislative principles which are principles relating to legislation that underlie a parliamentary democracy based on the rule of law.

On 25 February 2010, the Queensland Parliament established the Committee System Review Committee to consider the role of Parliamentary Committees in other jurisdictions; timely and cost effective ways in which Queensland Parliamentary Committees could more effectively evaluate and examine legislative proposals and examine the effectiveness of the existing committee system. The Committee report on this matter - *Review of the Queensland Parliamentary Committee System* (the Report) was tabled on 15 December 2010.

The Report recommended major reforms to the structure and functions of parliamentary committees in Queensland, including that parliamentary committees should be established to oversee various portfolio areas of government, including public accounts and public works inquiries as well as the scrutiny of legislation function with respect of fundamental legislative principles.

The Government accepted this recommendation as it would enable these committees to have a more complete understanding of the activities undertaken by portfolios within their area of responsibility.

As the functions of the Scrutiny of Legislation Committee are to be undertaken by each portfolio committee, transitional arrangements have been put in place for it to cease to exist on 30 June 2011.

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Should you require further information on the Report of the Committee System Review and the Government's response in your deliberations, it can be found on the Queensland Parliament website at: <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/view/committees/CSRC.asp>

The *Parliament of Queensland Act (Reform and Modernisation) Amendment Act 2011*, which was passed by Parliament on 12 May 2011, establishes the new committee structure. The Act and Explanatory Notes can be accessed electronically at: <http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au>

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Paul Lucas', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**PAUL LUCAS MP**  
**Deputy Premier and Attorney-General,**  
**Minister for Local Government**  
**and Special Minister of State**