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TT October 2003.
Submission No. 5



Queensland
Government

Premier of Queensland
and Minister for Trade

Please quote: CM15/IGR

11 NOV 2003

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Dr Andrew Southcott MP
Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

BY:.....

Andrew,
Dear Dr Southcott

Thank you for your letter of 24 October 2003 concerning the treaties being reviewed by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties (JSCOT) that were tabled in Parliament on 8 October 2003. The Queensland Government supports legally binding action being taken on these treaties.

The *International Labour Organisation Convention No. 182: Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour* was considered by the Queensland Cabinet in November 2002. The Queensland Government maintains that Queensland's legislation is sufficient to achieve compliance with the articles of this convention.

The Queensland Government, through its Commission for Children and Young People, is presently conducting a review of child labour with the aim of ensuring that the rights, interests and wellbeing of children under 18 years are protected in paid, and unpaid, employment. This current review demonstrates the ongoing commitment of the Queensland Government to ensure the most effective systems are in place for the protection of children and young people.

Article 7-2 (e) of the Convention refers to the need to take account of the special situation of girls regarding education. The Queensland Government notes a report published by the Australian Council for Educational Research, *School Leavers in Australia: Profiles and Pathways Research Report Number 31*, which provides evidence that boys are generally underachieving within the education setting and leaving school at a more significant rate than girls. It is recommended that this issue not be overlooked.

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The Queensland Government supports ratification of the *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Economic and Commercial Cooperation*. The agreement is consistent with the Queensland Government's trade strategy and could create export opportunities in agribusiness, construction, consumer goods, food products, warehousing, transport, logistics, and mining and energy equipment, technologies and services.

Thank you for providing the Queensland Government with the opportunity to consider and comment on the proposed treaty actions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Beattie', written in a cursive style.

PETER BEATTIE MP
PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR TRADE