



**Queensland
Government**

Office of the
Attorney-General and
Minister for Justice

In reply please quote: 2006/01858

Senator Brett Mason
Chair
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Mason

I am writing further to my letter of 27 February 2006 about the Inquiry into the Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Integrity and Other Measures) Bill 2005.

As noted in my letter, the changes that will flow from this Bill require that the Queensland Government decide its policy position in relation to prisoner voting rights.

Prisoners serving sentences of three years or more (or who have been convicted of treason or treachery) cannot be enrolled or vote in Queensland at present. However, the Commonwealth's amendments will mean that all prisoners (apart from those convicted of treason or treachery) will be entitled to remain or enrol on the Queensland roll and, in the absence of Queensland restrictions, will be entitled to vote in State elections.

The Queensland Government has recently had the opportunity to consider this issue.

Notwithstanding the reservations expressed in my letter of 27 February 2006, it has been determined that, if the Commonwealth Bill proceeds in its current form, the Queensland *Electoral Act 1992* should be amended to align with the policy position adopted by the Commonwealth.

Yours sincerely

Hon Linda Lavarch MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

Level 18
State Law Building
50 Ann Street Brisbane Q 4000

GPO Box 149 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia

Telephone +61 7 3239 3478
Facsimile +61 7 3220 2475
Email attorney@ministerial.qld.gov.au