

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT

PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND

22 Oct 1998

Dr Neil Byron
Presiding Commissioner
ESD Inquiry
Productivity Commission
Locked Bag 2
Collins St East
MELBOURNE VIC 8003

Dear Dr Byron

I refer to the Productivity Commission's Inquiry into the Implementation of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) by Commonwealth Departments and Agencies.

I wish to advise that the Queensland Government does not intend to make a detailed submission to the Inquiry. However, I would like to offer the following points:

1. The Queensland Government recognises that quality of life and natural resources must be protected, preserved and managed according to the principles of ESD for this and future generations. Government has a positive leadership role to play in establishing, demonstrating and encouraging ESD through environmental best practice.

2. The Queensland Government is integrating its environmental objectives into all government decision-making affecting the social and economic development of Queensland and the health and well being of individual Queenslanders.

3. With a view to strengthening the consideration of environmental factors in government decision-making, the Queensland Government is currently developing proposals to establish a Queensland Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and a Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD). While the EPA will focus on the more operational aspects of pollution control, the CSD will function as an independent statutory authority with the capacity to investigate and report on significant issues relating to the protection and use of the environment. It is intended that both the EPA and the CSD be operational in 1999.

4. As an example of the Queensland Government's implementation of ESD practices, the Government intends to mandate the purchase of recycled products as part

of government purchasing policies where the recycled product is of equal quality to equivalent products.

5. In discussions between State and Commonwealth officials, Queensland raised

concerns that the proposed Commonwealth Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation legislation should incorporate reciprocal arrangements for the Commonwealth Government to recognise State environmental legislation and policies regarding ESD, in relation to, for example, airport noise, telecommunications, and defence.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this Inquiry. I look forward to the release of the final report.

Yours sincerely

Peter Beattie MLA
PREMIER