

EDITORIAL

How quickly times change!. Only two **QAR** issues ago I spent the editorial page outlining the pros and cons of the then new piece of archaeologically protective legislation - The Cultural Record (Landscapes Queensland And Queensland Estate) Bill. However, with the sweeping into power of the Goss Labor Government in the 1989 Queensland state election, it would appear that this new broom will sweep away this piece of legislation within the next year or so. The new cabinet Minister, Mr. Pat Comben, is in charge of the Environment and Heritage portfolio and appears to represent a new breed. He is on record as being committed to heritage matters at large, has already announced plans for new heritage legislation and has drawn up a list of historic buildings which may not be demolished by midnight bulldozers, chains and balls etc. without severe financial penalties. In sum this seems a heady and refreshing start in comparison to his predecessors in the National Party camp. We now live in the hope that the trend continues.

Just what shape this legislation will take is unclear as of this time of writing; however, I understand from colleagues in the Heritage Section of the Department of Environment and Heritage, that a Green Paper is being prepared which will cover Historic places. Another such paper will follow at a later date to cover Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island sites of significance, including archaeological sites. Hopefully, this new attempt will bring a result which is more workable than the present bill. One may also hope that Minister Comben will seek advice from members of the Archaeological and Aboriginal communities in respect of the terms of reference for the Green Paper. In this connection, interested **QAR** readers might wish to offer, by way of unsolicited letters to the Minister, pertinent comments and advice on this matter.

More positive news also concerns the Heritage Section, Department of Environment and Heritage, who have added six new archaeological positions, thereby trebling the number of qualified staff. These new positions have been filled and include Geoff Smith (Sites Registrar, Brisbane), Natalie Franklin (Research Technician, Brisbane), Robert Neal (Regional Archaeologist, Brisbane), Luke Godwin (Regional Archaeologist, Rockhampton), Steve Sutton (Regional Archaeologist, Townsville) and Nicky Horsfall (Regional Archaeologist, Cairns). I am informed that applications for permits to conduct archaeological work should still be sent to the Brisbane Head Office. For those readers who are undertaking consulting I am also informed that, due to this regional expansion, four copies of consulting reports are now required by the Heritage Section rather than the single copy previously required.

And now to Volume 6 of **QAR**. Unlike the last issue which dealt with a specific region, the papers in this one range geographically from Moreton Bay to Cape York Peninsula and topically from late Holocene shell middens to Pleistocene axes, Aboriginal history to taphonomy. In short there is something for everyone.

In closing I'd like to thank the referees for prompt and diligent work, note that Volume 7 is on the drawing board and that manuscripts will still be received up to March 1, 1991 and, lastly, inform you that the cost of Volume 7 will not be increased.

J. HALL - ED.