

Australian Barristers Association Conference

Townsville, July 1988

Please Fence Us In

Obviously stung to the quick by the "The Interstate Lawyers Lament" (Bar News - Autumn 1988) the Queensland Bar responded in a predictably xenophobic way at the Australian Bar Association Conference held in Townsville with the following dirge sung to the tune of "Don't Fence Me In".

Oh! Give us briefs, lots of briefs up in
Queensland where we tout
Please fence us in.
Turn the heat on Mr. Street and keep the Southern
BARstars out.
Please fence us in.
Let us be by ourselves earning lots of fees,
Ignoring all the whingings of the southern Q.C.s
Keep them out forever, and we ask you please
Please fence us in.

Just turn us loose
Let us plunder while you wonder underneath the
Southern sky,
With our great skill, we'll fill the bill and swell the till,
And we'll leave you high and dry,
We want to try in the High where our skills are tested,
Litigate and arbitrate 'til you're divested
We can't stand competition and we won't be pestered.
Please fence us in.

Just turn us loose
We'll operate in every state with enormous enterprise
Just take our word
In our cases in all places, we will cut you down to size
We want to state on your fate, we won't take debate,
We tell you now we never will reciprocate
Cross-vesting is distressing and may make a gate,
Please fence us in.

