



BISHOP'S OFFICE

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03 December 1997

David Owen

REDACTED

Dear David

I am writing to you after Margie Newton has told me of a recent conversation she had with you. Margie informed me that you had been very, very hurt by a letter I had written to the parishes late in 1996.

I want to let you know David, that I was saddened to hear that my letter upset you so deeply. I wrote that letter in September 1996, and at that time, I did not understand the complexities of the Neerkol situation. I did not know of the immense hurt people were suffering. I know you had spoken with me once before – I had tried to listen to you then, but must have not heard truly of your pain. I am trying now to listen more carefully to what people are telling me about their hurts and I am trying to understand that more fully.

Please forgive me for my unintended hurtful words in that letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'B Heenan'.

Brian Heenan
Bishop of Rockhampton