



Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services

1 August, 2024

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Mr Peter Russo
Chair, Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr Russo

I am writing to you with regard to the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee's examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio area of corrective services which occurred on 26 July, 2024.

As you are aware, debate during this estimates hearing did not always proceed in a civil and orderly manner. In fact, this resulted in the Member for Kawana being warned under Standing Order 185 for disruptive conduct and then asked to withdraw from the hearing for further infractions.

In response to a question from the Member for Burdekin, I was asked whether I was made aware of any allegations involving the former president of the Parole Board, involving allowances. At the time I responded, "Not that I can recall."

While at the time that was correct, I have since been further briefed on this matter. On Monday, July 29, I was reminded of a very short verbal briefing, amongst other briefings, that occurred on June 12 where the Corrective Services Commissioner made mention that there were allegations regarding the Parole Board President and that these had been referred to the appropriate authority for investigation. I am advised the Commissioner was acting on advice of the Crime and Corruption Commission and, as such, it was a very high-level briefing that did not go into detail other than that a matter had been referred.

I also draw your attention to the attached document which I tabled in Parliament yesterday which provides further context.

Additionally, during the Committee's examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio area of fire, Hansard has recorded (on page 80) a comment I made to the Fire Commissioner:

Ms BOYD: We made an announcement on that on Tuesday.

I have reviewed the video of proceedings and it is difficult to identify exactly what was said from the audio, but I wish to advise, my comment to the Commissioner was, "We are making an announcement on that on Tuesday" as my media schedule from Tuesday, August 30 will reflect.

I also note that in response to a question by the Member for Burdekin recorded on page 83 of the Hansard, I stated "as I understand it, overweight vehicles are not being used" when I should have said, "as I understand it, overweight vehicles are not routinely being used".

If you have any queries, or require any additional information, please contact my Chief of Staff,
Mr Kerryn Manifold, on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

The Honourable Nikki Boyd MP
**Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and
Minister for Corrective Services**
cc cslac@parliament.qld.gov.au

STATEMENT FROM THE MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES

I note opposition media statements regarding the management of the Parole Board of Queensland.

It is a matter of public record, due to my statements in the Legislative Assembly, that I held concerns regarding the performance of the Parole Board of Queensland.

Upon being made aware of allegations and issues with the performance of the former President of the Parole Board Queensland, I sought independent advice from Crown Law and then sought a meeting with the former President of the Parole Board Queensland. This meeting occurred on Wednesday, 12 June, 2024.

As I stated at a recent estimates hearing, "during that meeting I stressed the importance of having a parole board that was well managed and operating effectively and one that the community has confidence in".

While it is not best practice for a Minister to divulge private conversations with heads of bodies within their purview, on this occasion and given public commentary by the Opposition, I wish to advise the Parliament that the discussions during this meeting were general in nature, regarding the performance of the former President of the Parole Board Queensland and the parole board itself.

Specific matters, including the allegation raised by the Opposition during the estimates hearing did not form part of the discussion.

Further I reiterate that at no point during or after that meeting, did I request, or suggest that the President of the Parole Board of Queensland tender their resignation.

It is a matter of public record, that the President of the Parole Board of Queensland tendered their resignation to my office on Friday, 14 June, 2024, with a resignation date of Thursday, 12 July, 2024.

As I advised the committee during the hearing, the former President of the Parole Board of Queensland "originally proposed a resignation date of 12 July and, in discussions with my office, agreed to bring that date forward to 4 July".

I wish to advise, for completeness, that a number of issues were raised with my office and myself in relation to the conduct of the former President of the Parole Board Queensland and the parole board in general. This includes matters such as the use of "subject to" parole decisions and the use of acting arrangements that did not follow the cascading order set out in the relevant regulation. Both of these instances, for example, required retrospective legislation.

I have also been advised that the Commissioner of the Queensland Corrective Services has appropriately referred certain allegations in respect of the former President of the Parole Board Queensland to the appropriate authorities.

I take this opportunity to thank the hardworking and dedicated staff of the Parole Board Queensland for their work each and every day. They play an important role in ensuring our community is kept safe, but also ensuring that individuals rights are respected and upheld.

The government has reiterated our expectation of a high functioning parole board to the executive of the Parole Board Queensland and we have commenced a recruitment process to ensure that the next President of the Parole Board Queensland is equipped with the appropriate skills to ensure that Queenslanders have a high functioning parole system.