



Jarrod BLEIJIE MP

Member for Kawana

Shadow Minister for Police, Fire, Emergency Services and Corrective Services



Tabled 4.46 pm by J. Bleijie MP
[Signature] 20/8/15

10 August 2015

Ms Katarina Carroll
Commissioner for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
GPO Box 1425
BRISBANE QLD 4101

Dear Commissioner, *Kat*

I refer to the attached email dated 4 August 2015 from [REDACTED]
Bundaberg Area Office Rural Fire Service Queensland Fire and Emergency Services.

It is obvious that the attached email was sent to a number of undisclosed recipients.

Further, attached to the email was a copy of a 3 page letter from Ms Leanne Donaldson MP,
Member for Bundaberg.

I have read both the email and the contents of the attached letter and wish to express my
concern and objection that a public servant employed by your Department is distributing
blatant political propaganda.

The letter from Ms Donaldson explains aspects of the Governments Bill with respect to
presumptive legislation for firefighters. No doubt the letter is an attempt to placate the
debate surrounding the discrimination contained in her governments Bill. On the other hand,
the discrimination does not exist in the LNP Private Members Bill that I introduced into
Parliament. In fact my Bill defines firefighters as fulltime, part time, auxiliary and rural
volunteers.

No matter what Ms Donaldson says, she can't escape the reality that her government Bill is
discriminatory to rural firefighters.

Ms Donaldson says in her letter and I quote:

*"That's a very important part of this particular bill and that's where we differ from the
LNP's Bill (the LNP's Bill does not provide access to common law damages)"*

It is clear that from the contents of the letter that it is a 'political letter'.

It is my view that as the result of the action of your Department forwarding a copy of Ms
Donaldson's political letter, your department has engaged in conduct that is in direct breach
of both the Public Sector Ethics Act 1994 and the Public Service Act 2008.

The public service should at all times remain and be seen to be apolitical. There is a
difference between disseminating government information to members of the public and
disseminating blatant party political information to the public. Your department has engaged
in the latter.

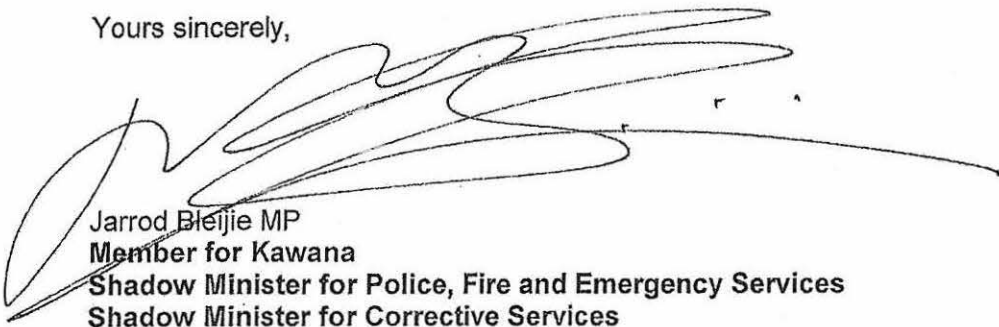
I consider this matter of a serious nature that I intend to formalise a complaint to the Public Service Commission. However, prior to me doing that, please advise:

1. what action you have taken to recall the email and the attached letter;
2. what investigations are being conducted in relation to this matter; and
3. if so, have you referred this matter to an independent organisation for investigation.

If the Department has changed long standing policy against sending out blatant political information on behalf of Members of Parliament then please advise if Mr Stephen Bennett MP Member for Burnett who represents an area covered by the Bundaberg Area Office will be afforded the same level of service as the Member for Bundaberg in terms of your Department sending out a letter on his behalf.

I await your reply.

Yours sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jarrod Bleijie MP
Member for Kawana
Shadow Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services
Shadow Minister for Corrective Services