



Premier of Queensland

For reply please quote: ES/AT – TF/11/12817 – DOC/11/62427

14 APR 2011

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I refer to Report No. 112 of the Integrity, Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee (IEPPC) titled *Review of Code of Ethical Standards* (the report), tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 28 October 2010, and to the interim response to the report that I tabled on 27 January 2011.

As you are aware, on 5 April 2011, I introduced the Parliament of Queensland (Reform and Modernisation) Amendment Bill 2011 (the Bill) into the Parliament. This Bill seeks to implement elements of the Government's response to the Committee System Review Committee's report titled *Review of the Queensland Parliamentary Committee System*.

One of these elements is a proposal to transfer the responsibility for publishing and reviewing the *Code of Ethical Standards for Members* (the code) from the IEPPC to the Committee of the Legislative Assembly (CLA). While the Parliament is yet to further consider the Bill, if it is passed and assented to, a new committee will become responsible for the code.

As I outlined in the interim response to the report, the version of the code included in the report has been superseded given the amendments to Schedule 2 of Standing Orders agreed to by the Parliament on 28 October 2010. Furthermore, that version of the code is likely to become further superseded once the Parliament has considered additional amendments to Schedule 2 of Standing Orders as a result of the Government's response to Report No. 109 of the IEPPC titled *Review of the Register of Members' Interests*, which was tabled on 29 November 2010.

In short, the committee responsible for publishing and reviewing the code may change, the version of the code published by the IEPPC has already been superseded, and the code is likely to be further superseded once further amendments to Standing Orders as a result of the Government's response to Report No. 109 of the IEPPC have been considered by the Parliament.



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Government**

Given these circumstances, the Government believes that consideration of a new version of the code should not proceed until after the Bill has been voted upon by the Parliament.

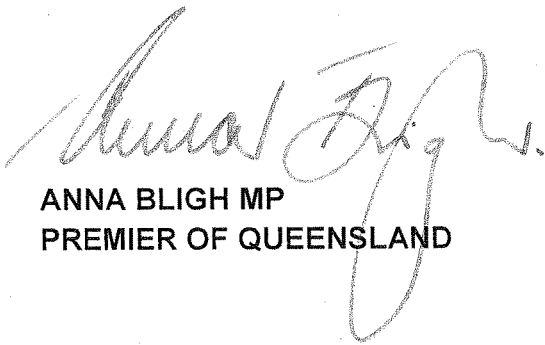
If the Bill is passed and assented to, then it is the Government's view that the CLA should have the opportunity to consider undertaking its own examination of the IEPPC's revision of the code, particularly to take into account the amendments to Schedule 2 of Standing Orders agreed to by the Parliament on 28 October 2010 and the Government's response to Report No. 109 of the IEPPC.

While the Government supports an update to the code to assist in reminding Members of their obligations and to guide Member's decision-making in relation to ethical matters, the Government considers that all of the matters outlined above should be resolved by the Parliament before a new version of the code is considered by the Parliament.

I would appreciate it if you could arrange for this letter to be tabled as the Government's final response to Report No. 112 of the IEPPC as required under section 107 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Anna Bligh', is written over the typed name and title.

**ANNA BLIGH MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND**