

**Question on Notice
No.591
Asked on 21 April 2005**

Mr JOHNSON asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (Mr Beattie)

QUESTION:

With reference to the recent sacking of a highly respected Senior Ranger with almost 20 years service with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, based in Charleville. On the same day he received the letter informing him that he had been sacked for alleged breaches of the *Public Service Act* and the EPA Code of Conduct, he also received letters of commendation from both you and the Minister for Education. As the officer was bullied and intimidated, in particular by one Senior Manager in the course of his duties, and as it is well known that a number of staff have reported experiencing bullying within this department and intimidation by management and as there is a culture of bullying and fear within this department –

Will he now have this matter investigated thoroughly and honestly, so that the officer can be reinstated?

ANSWER:

The decision to dismiss a public servant is very serious, and one that is not taken easily or lightly.

It is extremely regrettable when circumstances are such that an employee - any employee - of the Queensland Government should be dismissed.

My chief concern in this matter is that this person receives the natural justice due to him.

Although I am advised that the full extent of the legal process for dismissal has been followed, including his right of reply to issues raised by his employer; and his right of appeal through the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission, I understand a reinstatement application for this man has been made to the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. That is the proper place and the only place for this matter to be settled; and where both parties can be fairly and equally represented.

This Government takes bullying very seriously and there are procedures in place for public servants to register complaints.

If the Member has specific details of bullying I urge him to write to me giving me those details and I will ensure they are investigated.