

Question on Notice

No. 1055

Asked on 4 September 2018

MR R MOLHOEK ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE (HON Y D'ATH) –

QUESTION:

With reference to the answer to the Legal and Community Safety Committee's estimates prehearing Questions on Notice No. 18—

Will the Attorney-General confirm that all judicial officers appointed to the Magistrates, District and Supreme Courts since the introduction of the protocol (15 July 2016) have been on the recommendation of the Judicial Appointment Advisory Panel?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Southport for his question.

I can confirm that all judicial appointments since July 2016 have been made in accordance with the *Protocol for Judicial Appointments in Queensland* ("the Protocol"), which provides for the role of the Judicial Appointments Advisory Panel and the consultation requirements with Heads of Jurisdiction prior to me, as Attorney-General, making a recommendation to the Governor-in-Council for a judicial appointment.

It is important that I do not divulge the confidential expressions of interest, Panel deliberations nor advice from each of the Heads of Jurisdiction to ensure that the Panel, the lawyers submitting expressions of interest and ultimately those lawyers appointed have absolute confidence in the system.

You may recall under the former LNP Government, the appointments process for judicial officers was, most regrettably, permitted to fall into disrepute because the former Attorney-General did not adhere to the Convention relating to judicial appointments, including maintaining confidentiality, readily observed by past Queensland Attorneys-General, of all political persuasions.

By implementing the Protocol, the Palaszczuk Government repaired the integrity of and increased transparency concerning the appointments process for judicial appointments in Queensland.

It is not appropriate for me to go into specific detail concerning judicial appointments. The community, members of the Judiciary and legal profession must have faith that as Attorney-General, my deliberations will remain strictly confidential.