

Question on Notice
No. 70
Asked on 24 February 2021

Mr J Krause asked Premier and Minister for Trade (Hon. A Palaszczuk)—

QUESTION:

Will the Premier advise how the Premier has satisfied herself about the adequacy and efficacy of measures in place to manage conflicts between Acting Director-General John Lee and his pecuniary interests?

ANSWER:

Prior to John Lee commencing as Acting Director-General, Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport on 20 November 2020, I obtained advice from the Queensland Integrity Commissioner, Dr Nikola Stepanov regarding potential probity issues arising in relation to Mr Lee's proposed appointment. Dr Stepanov's advice was followed.

Mr Lee also independently sought Dr Stepanov's advice to ensure he met his obligations under the Queensland Public Service Code of Conduct, that requires all public service employees to disclose a personal interest that could influence, or be seen to influence, the performance of their public duties, and to manage any conflicts so they are resolved in the public interest.

I am satisfied that Mr Lee followed Dr Stepanov's advice.

Prior to commencing as Acting Director-General, Mr Lee:

- applied for and was granted leave of absence from his role as a Partner at Newgate Communications and further undertook to not be involved in Newgate business while acting
- verified that his partner and dependants will not be involved in Newgate business or organisations that the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport might deal with while he is acting
- put arrangements in place to ensure the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport will not engage Newgate Communications for any consulting work during this time. Further Newgate Communications have indicated that it will not approach the Department to do work during this time
- applied for and was granted leave of absence from the Boards of:
 - the North Queensland Cowboys Club NRL Club
 - Netball Australia
 - Melanoma Patients Australia Pty Ltd
 - Advisers to AURA Pty Ltd
- resigned as the Chair of the ACU Elite Athlete Performance Program Committee.

Mr Lee has met his obligations under the *Public Service Act 2008* and submitted his Declaration of Interests to Dr Stepanov, the Honourable Stirling Hinchliffe MP, Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport, and Robert Setter, Public Service Commission Chief Executive.

Mr Lee's declaration (other than his partner and dependants) is published online, along with all chief executives of Queensland government departments, at:

<https://www.qld.gov.au/about/how-government-works/government-structure/public-service-commission/declarations-of-interest-register>