



Honourable Yvette D'Ath MP  
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice  
Leader of the House

In reply please quote: 572305/4; 4780212

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30 MAY 2019

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr <sup>Neil</sup>Laurie

I refer to e-Petition 3086-19 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 30 April 2019, requesting an appeal against the sentence of Mr Carl Wulff.

On 15 February 2019, Mr Carl Wulff; as well as Ms Sharon Oxenbridge, Mr Claude Walker and Mr Wayne Myers (the defendants); were sentenced in the Brisbane District Court to various terms of imprisonment following their pleas of guilty to offences of official corruption and, in the case of Mr Wulff, an additional offence of attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Within one month of a District Court sentence being handed down, I can order an appeal in certain circumstances. I understand the defendants have each lodged appeals against the sentences imposed.

Given the matters are pending determination in the Court of Appeal, I can briefly advise that following careful consideration of the relevant matters, an appeal was not lodged within the permitted timeframe and it would be inappropriate for me to comment further at this time.

In providing my response pursuant to standing order 125, I want to thank the petitioner for raising the matter and take the opportunity to confirm the Palaszczuk Government's focus on local government reform and accountability.

The local government reform agenda has included establishing the Office of the Independent Assessor to consider councillor complaints and improve governance practices. In August 2018, the Palaszczuk Government introduced legislation which dismissed the Ipswich City Council and appointed an interim administrator until the next local government elections in 2020. This followed tabling of the Crime and Corruption Commission's (CCC) report, *Culture and corruption risks in local government: Lessons learned from an investigation into Ipswich City Council (Operation Windage)*.

The CCC investigation also resulted in criminal charges being commenced against a number of current or former Ipswich City council employees or councillors, including those referred to in the petition.

(2)

On 1 May 2019, the Palaszczuk Government introduced further legislation aimed at strengthening the transparency, accountability and integrity of local government as part of its ongoing local government reform agenda. This legislation includes a range of measures, in response to CCC's report *Operation Belcarra: A blueprint for integrity and addressing corruption risk in local government*, directed at preventing or decreasing corruption risks and increasing public confidence in local government.

I again thank the petitioners for bringing their concerns to the attention of the House.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Yvette D'Ath', is positioned above the printed name and title.

**YVETTE D'ATH MP**

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