



Premier of Queensland
Minister for the Olympics



Brisbane 2032
Olympic and Paralympic
Games Host
Queensland



For reply please quote: *OADGG&E/KN – TF/22/6844 – DOC/22/63460*
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14 April 2022

Mr Neil Laurie
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Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 23 March 2022 regarding Petition 3701–22 about establishing a commission of inquiry and the recalling of the Queensland Parliament, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 15 March 2022.

The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring the highest standards of integrity and accountability. The Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Premier and Minister for the Olympics expects the highest of standards from her Ministers and that their conduct as senior officials of the Queensland Government meet public expectations.

The Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) is the standing commission established in Queensland to combat and reduce the incidence of major crime and corruption in the public sector. It is an independent statutory body and is required by law to act independently, impartially and fairly. The CCC is the appropriate body for receiving and assessing allegations of corruption in Queensland

Unlike the LNP Opposition when in government which stripped resources from the then Crime and Misconduct Commission, appointed an Acting Chair of the CMC without consultation with the parliamentary committee, and sacked the parliamentary oversight committee in the middle of the night, the Palaszczuk Government respects the independence of the CCC and the vital work that it does.

The Queensland Government has recently implemented a number of independent reviews, which are outlined below. In addition, there are legislative requirements for reviews of some statutory bodies and officers of the Queensland Parliament.

A Commission of Inquiry into aspects of the CCC, as recommended by the bipartisan Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, was established in January 2022. This Commission of Inquiry, chaired by the Honourable Tony Fitzgerald AC QC, along with retired Supreme Court Judge, the Honourable Alan Wilson QC, commenced work on 7 February 2022 and is due to report to the Premier and the Honourable Shannon Fentiman MP, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, by 9 August 2022.

In relation to the Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC), an independent review of its governance arrangements was announced in November 2021 and is being led by Dr Jim Varghese AM. The aim of the review is to ensure contemporary, fit-for-purpose governance for QBCC that reflects regulatory best practice. The review is well progressed and will be completed later this year. The Terms of Reference for this review are available on the Department of Energy and Public Works website.

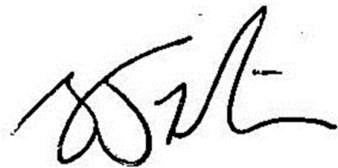
On 7 February 2022, the Premier announced that a Queen's Counsel would undertake an independent arm's length review of certain allegations about annual reports made by the former State Archivist. Mr John McKenna QC undertook this review and his report was publicly released on 4 March 2022 and has also been tabled in the Queensland Parliament. The report found there was no reasonable suspicion that any of the persons involved in the preparation of the Queensland State Archives' annual reports acted other than lawfully and appropriately. A copy of the report is available on the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) and the Queensland Parliament websites.

The Premier also announced, on 18 February 2022, an independent review by Emeritus Professor Peter Coaldrake AO, into culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector. The Terms of Reference for this review are available on DPC's website and the Premier has committed to publicly releasing the report.

The Queensland Parliament has been meeting regularly throughout 2022 to date, with usual parliamentary business, such as Question Time, Questions on Notice, Matters of Public Interest, Private Members' Motions and Private Members' Statements, available to members to enable them to scrutinise the actions of the Queensland Government.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Miles', written in a cursive style.

**STEVEN MILES MP
ACTING PREMIER**