



**Peg Putt MHA**  
Greens Opposition Leader  
Member for Denison  
**Tasmanian Greens**

Friday, 15 June 2007

Ms Linda Hornsey  
Secretary  
Department of Premier and Cabinet  
15 Murray Street  
HOBART TAS 7001

Dear Linda,

I am writing to express my disappointment at your blatantly political act of disseminating to the media an ostensibly private letter to me, without the courtesy of informing me that the letter attacking my reputation and motives was being published by you.

It was entirely proper for me to question the Premier in Parliament on such an important matter, and to pursue the relevant details of who did what and when, and who knew what and when, for the public record. I reject the assertion that I should have indulged in some back room phone conversation instead.

I never set out to damage your integrity, but rather to discover vital information pursuant to matters revealed in FOI documents received by Nick McKim MHA from the RPDC. Furthermore, I never mentioned you by name, but referred only to the position of Secretary of DPAC. It was in fact the Premier himself who introduced the personal reference.

The Greens do hold concerns about the relationship between the Premier, DPAC and the RPDC at that time, and such concerns pertain to all sides of the equation. How is it that a supposedly independent body accepts an intervention into their affairs from anyone that results in their failure to send a formal letter to Gunns notifying them that the information provided by them was critically non-compliant? This is especially concerning in the context that the letter you were drafting to the Premier at that time told Gunns of the government's shift to more overtly partisan support for the mill:

*"In addition, the Government will be represented before the Assessment Panel to put the case for a pulp mill on the basis of the economic benefits it will bring to the State. It is my intention to have the Government represented at all public hearings. As I've said before, we can't afford to turn our backs on an economic development of this magnitude."*

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The Premier has failed to ever inform the House that he never discussed your intervention on this matter with you until June 6. I note that this is not the same as claiming that the Premier did not know that the information provided by Gunns was critically non-compliant, merely that he did not know of your intervention in the manner in which they were informed of this fact. Indeed, the RPDC's letter of 23 March 2007 informed him of the former detail, yet he never told Parliament or the people of Tasmania this materially important information.

I still do not understand how or why you thought that your decision to advise the RPDC not to send a formal letter to Gunns, and rather to undertake yourself to convey the information by phone "*was an appropriate course of action.*" No rationale has been advanced as to why this latter action was preferable, and how it could have been hoped that it would yield a better result.

The letter originally proposed to be sent to Gunns from the RPDC laid out deficiencies and explained what was needed to satisfy the RPDC. It is apparent, however, that your course of action resulted in there being no formal letter from the RPDC to Gunns (regarding the critical deficiencies) being on the public record. It is only indirectly that we, and thence the public, have been made aware of the fact of the critical non-compliance and the timing of that notification to Gunns, as well as of your intervention in the matter. That is, we have this information due only to mention of the matter by the RPDC's Acting Head Simon Cooper in a letter to the Premier summarising events from the RPDC's perspective, and the Greens' obtaining this letter under an FOI request. Of course we were duty bound to follow up these revelations with assiduous questioning in Parliament.

You must expect that where your actions in your official capacity become relevant to such inquiries they will be scrutinised.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peg Putt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the end of the name.

Peg Putt MHA  
Leader of the Tasmanian Greens