



Senator Pauline Hanson
One Nation Senator for Queensland

Media Release

Wednesday, 19 October, 2016

Prime Minister urged to immediately sack Norfolk Island Administrator

Senator Pauline Hanson has today written to Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull urging the immediate dismissal of Australia's vice-regal representative to Norfolk Island following serious allegations that he has misled the Australian Parliament, successive Government Ministers, and the Australian people.

Senator Hanson also requested the immediate dispatching of independent experts to investigate allegations of waste, mismanagement and preferential treatment involving the office of Norfolk Island Administrator Gary Hardgrave.

In addition to immediately recalling Mr Hardgrave from Norfolk Island, Senator Hanson urged the Prime Minister to conduct a genuine consultation process with the Norfolk Island community to ensure a replacement Administrator was capable of rebuilding trust on the island.

"Mr Hardgrave has failed to uphold the obligations of his high office and should be immediately replaced," Senator Hanson said.

"Based on the allegations that have been made, there appears to be a strong case for the immediate dismissal of Mr Hardgrave as Administrator."

Senator Hanson outlined a series of allegations against Mr Hardgrave, including that he:

- had overseen preferential treatment for friends and associates, the awarding of contracts without a tender process, and the awarding of employment to individuals who were less qualified than alternate candidates;
- was responsible for overseeing the potential waste of millions of Australian taxpayer dollars due to a lack of appropriate oversight and accountability;
- had lied to a parliamentary delegation from the United Kingdom, falsely accusing the local community of burning down homes bought by the Australian Government;
- misled the Australian Parliament and successive Government Ministers with false claims that genuine consultation with the people of Norfolk Island occurred prior to the abolition of self-governance;
- misled the Australian Parliament by falsely claiming the majority of Norfolk Island residents supported these changes, despite a referendum in 2015 recording almost 70 per cent opposition to an Australian takeover;
- prevented local representative organisations, including the Norfolk Island Chamber of Commerce, the Norfolk Island Accommodation and Tourism Association, and the Norfolk Island Council of Elders, from meeting with Territories Minister Fiona Nash during her recent visit;
- brought disrepute to the office of Administrator with ill-tempered outbursts at public meetings, disrespectful statements in the local media, and extremely offensive statements in private, including a statement that he would like to see a number of Norfolk Islanders buried under a bridge; and
- used his powers as Administrator to censor political discussion, with local people banned from accessing the community radio station and a public servant being forced to accept a pay cut due to criticisms written on social media.

"Since my arrival on Norfolk Island, I have been given extensive evidence of serious misconduct involving the Australian Government's vice-regal representative on the island," Senator Hanson said.

"These actions amount to clear breaches of the responsibilities and appropriate behaviours of this important public office.

"The Prime Minister has an obligation to immediately act to resolve this situation.

"I have today urged him to not only immediately recall Mr Hardgrave, but to dispatch independent experts to Norfolk Island to investigate the serious allegations of waste, mismanagement, and preferential treatment that have been reported to me."

Attached is a copy of Senator Hanson's letter to Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull

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