



Cabinet Secretary

Reference: MS22-001207

The Honourable Scott Morrison MP
Member for Cook
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

By email:
Scott.Morrison.MP@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Morrison

I am writing to you to express concern at the apparent extensive disclosures of cabinet information in the recent publication *Plagued: Australia's two years of hell – the inside story* published by Pantera Press.

I understand that the authors were informed by interviews conducted contemporaneously over the 2020-2022 period, including deliberations of the National Security Committee of Cabinet. As you are well aware, the publication is granular in its description of cabinet and cabinet committee deliberations.

Several disclosures appear to have been made in contravention of the expectation of discretion regarding sensitive Cabinet discussions, including the disclosure that the then-Secretary of your Department briefed cabinet on planning on Chinese economic coercion [at 129] and that the national security implications of COVID-19 were further discussed at the National Security Committee of Cabinet [130] and [147] which includes alleged quotes from you and paraphrases discussions allegedly from those meetings. Additionally, references to a 'secret intelligence briefing' from the Office of National Intelligence [312] would appear to be contrary to the confidentiality of information from the intelligence and security agencies.

Disclosures of Cabinet discussions and deliberations undermine Cabinet confidentiality and solidarity. I trust there will be no further disclosures from your period in government that undermine national security and the integrity of the Cabinet process.

Yours sincerely

THE HON MARK DREYFUS KC MP

7/11/2022