

## **Attachment D**

**Letter from Queensland Deputy Crown Solicitor to  
the Chair, ECITA Committee – re Mr Green**

**1 March 2007**





## Crown Solicitor

1 March 2007

Chairman  
Senate Standing Committee on the Environment,  
Communications Information Technology and the Arts  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Attention: Mr I Holland

Dear Senator Eggleston

### **Allegations of harassment of a witness appearing before the Senate Standing Committee on the Environment, Communications Information Technology and the Arts**

I act for the Environmental Protection Agency in this matter and thank you for your letter of 8 February 2007 to Mr Clive Cook, the Director of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service ("QPWS") in Cairns.

In that letter, you informed that an employee of the QPWS, Mr David Green, has made allegations to the effect that he was harassed and, indeed, threatened by Mr Cook in relation to evidence given by Mr Green to the Senate Standing Committee on the Environment, Communications Information Technology and the Arts ("the Committee") on 30 June 2006.

Specifically, your letter states:

"Mr Green alleges that on the morning of the hearing he was met by the Regional Director and advised that the QPWS would be reading his evidence and to be careful in his presentation. Mr Green took this as a veiled threat to influence his presentation and evidence to the committee. ...

The committee therefore requests that you provide an account of the facts as you see them in relation to Mr Green's appearance before the committee. ..."

See: Letter, *Eggleston to Cook*, 8 February 2007 at 1-2.

In response, at the outset, may I say that the QPWS is mindful of the seriousness of these allegations. If substantiated, any interference with a witness appearing before a parliamentary committee would be a matter of grave concern and would be treated as such by the Queensland Government. This being so, the QPWS wishes to fully co-operate with the Committee.

Having said this, however, it seems to me, before Mr Cook can usefully consider and respond to Mr Green's allegations, that Mr Cook is entitled to know the exact terms of those allegations.

In this regard, your letter speaks of Mr Green taking remarks made to him by Mr Cook “as a veiled threat”. With respect, how individuals may have perceived the presence of Mr Cook at the Committee’s hearings last year and may have construed any remarks Mr Cook may have made on that occasion will almost certainly differ from person to person. For example, Dr PR Williams, who appeared before the Committee at the same time as Mr Green, speaks in terms of Mr Cook’s support for the presence of both Dr Williams and Mr Green at the Committee hearings. See: Transcript, *Senate – References*, 30 June 2006 at ECITA 27.

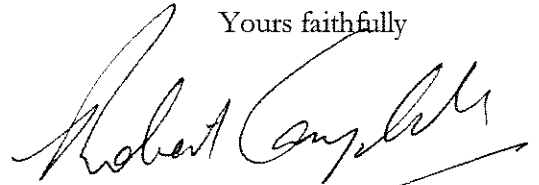
How this position sits with the allegations made by Mr Green, apparently in relation to the same events, is a matter for you to consider.

In all the circumstances then, before Mr Cook can properly respond to your request to provide the Committee with an account of the relevant events of 30 June 2006, it is requested you particularise the terms of Mr Green’s allegations so that Mr Cook can offer a meaningful response.

For the present, however, you may be assured that Mr Cook denies the allegations made against him, insofar as those allegations are known, and looks forward to being afforded the opportunity to respond in detail to the particulars of the allegations in due course.

I am available to discuss this matter at any time.

Yours faithfully



RW Campbell  
**Deputy Crown Solicitor**  
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