



Premier of Queensland
Minister for the Olympics



Brisbane 2032
Olympic and Paralympic
Games Host
Queensland



For reply please quote: *SocPol/LAM – TF/21/25654 – DOC/21/223331*

11 NOV 2021

Mr Neil Laurie
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to Petition 3591-21 regarding the salaries of members of the Queensland Parliament and certain public servants when lockdowns are enacted through Queensland Public Health Directions, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 12 October 2021.

I can advise that the Queensland Government is guided by the advice of the Chief Health Officer (CHO) and public health experts from across Australia in ensuring that all measures put in place to protect the community from the spread of COVID-19, are appropriate, proportionate, and effective. These measures have played an integral role in ensuring Queensland can continue its success in containing and preventing the spread of COVID-19 in the community.

As you would be aware, the CHO is an independent statutory holder who makes public health orders to assist in containing or responding to the spread of COVID-19 within the community. While it is acknowledged that these orders have an economic and social effect on individuals and businesses, unprecedented levels of support have been provided by all governments to help during these times.

Taking into account the independent nature of the CHO's powers and the significant decision-making responsibility associated with the exercising of these powers, my Government does not support any impediment or other consideration, such as wage implications for politicians and certain public servants, being placed on the CHO when issuing Public Health Directions.

Further, I can advise that the Government does not determine the salaries of members of the Queensland Parliament. Such decisions are the sole domain of the Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal, and the Government has no power to direct the tribunal in this regard.

Similarly, remuneration for public servants is negotiated through Certified Agreements and set by legislation and is considered to provide fair and reasonable remuneration that balances the need to support Queensland's recovery from the economic impacts of COVID-19 against the need to support the valued contribution of public servants who deliver services to Queensland.

I hope this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

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

**ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND
MINISTER FOR THE OLYMPICS**