



Minister for Transport and Main Roads Minister for Digital Services

Our ref: PET3877-23
Your ref: A1123331

13 July 2023

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 3877-23 lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 13 June 2023 about social media statements.

The Queensland Government is a strong supporter of the digital economy, and believes in its ability to improve connectivity, enable economic participation, provide government services, and support job creation.

Social media itself has presented opportunities for governments to augment their traditional communication methods. Social media can also make it more convenient for customers to engage with the Government, and access information, services and campaigns.

Many government departments, and the Queensland Parliament, maintain social media accounts, and in accordance with the *Ministerial Information Security Policy*, Ministers can set up their own official social media accounts.

It is a long established facet of the Westminster system of government, encapsulated in the *Queensland Ministerial Handbook*, that Ministers are entitled to staff to assist them in the performance of their ministerial duties. The *Queensland Opposition Handbook* similarly provides that the Leader of the Opposition is entitled to staffing assistance.

Ministerial staff perform a myriad of duties in supporting their Minister, including assisting Ministers with the drafting of speeches, media statements and content for social media accounts. Ultimately, it is the Minister who is accountable to the Parliament and the people of Queensland for anything done in their name.

As such, the Government does not support a system for social media statements by Ministers.

In relation to mayors and their social media statements, the petitioners would need to raise these matters directly with them.

While the Government does not support the request made in this petition regarding Ministers, we respect the right of the petitioners to provide their thoughts on these matters to the Legislative Assembly.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Bailey', with a long, sweeping underline that extends downwards and to the right.

MARK BAILEY MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads
Minister for Digital Services