



Parliamentary National Party of Australia (WA)

Our ref: 200528/JN

Hon Mark McGowan MLA
Premier
5th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street,
WEST PERTH WA 6005

via email: wa-government@dpc.wa.gov.au

Dear Premier

SPECIAL INQUIRY INTO COVID-19 RESPONSE

I write to request your consideration of using Section 24H of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* (the Act) to convene a special inquiry into the COVID-19 pandemic response at an appropriate time once the State of Emergency declaration is lifted.

The Act allows you to direct the Public Sector Commissioner to arrange for the holding of a special inquiry into a matter relating to the Public Sector and prescribes powers of any person appointed to conduct that inquiry.

Special inquiries have frequently been formed to examine emergency events. Since the PSC was established in 2008 the State has conducted six inquiries, three of which related to emergency events. An emergency response of this scale fits the framework for detailed analysis and review so we can learn and prepare to face challenges that may confront us in the future.

Given the magnitude of the COVID-19 response, it is pertinent for any terms of an inquiry to examine the adequacy of individual and cross-agency responses, ongoing health and economic impacts, preparedness of government agencies to cope with future outbreaks and potential risk to our State's trade, security and production.

Our State, its communities, business and industry have responded incredibly well to the demands of Government throughout the pandemic. Offering them an open and transparent review of the response and recommendations to inform future emergency management practices would be welcomed by all.

I look forward to your response on this issue.

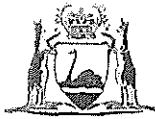
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mia Davies".

Hon Mia Davies MLA
LEADER

28 MAY 2020

Parliament House, Perth, Western Australia 6000 ph (08) 9222 7296 fax (08) 9222 7812



Premier of Western Australia

Our Reference: 59-204249/NC

Hon Mia Davies MLA
Leader of the Parliamentary National Party of Australia (WA)
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6005

By email: mia.davies@losp.wa.gov.au

Mia
Dear Ms Davies

Thank you for your letter of May 28 requesting the State Government consider a special inquiry into the Covid-19 Pandemic response using Section 24H of the Public Sector Management Act 1994.

The impact of the Pandemic has been enormous around the world at health, social and economic levels.

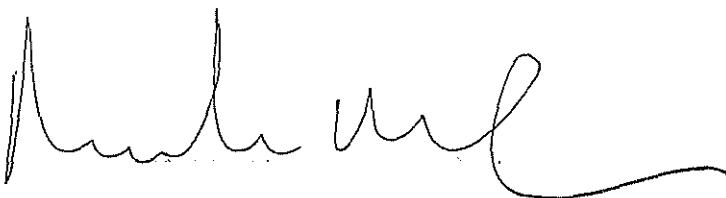
Despite the effective way that Australia and Western Australia has responded to the Pandemic we have not been immune from that enormous impact.

You correctly point out that we are still in a State of Emergency and I agree that our State, its communities, business and industry have responded incredibly well to this once in a hundred-year event.

The establishment of a special inquiry will depend on how Western Australia is placed once we exit and recover from the State of Emergency and full knowledge of events that have transpired until then. I would expect that guidance would also be sought from the Commonwealth as to how they might respond at that stage.

Your request is taken in good faith and I am happy to discuss further post the State of Emergency.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark McGowan".

Mark McGowan MLA
PREMIER

- 2 JUN 2020