

Department of Premier and Cabinet

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Dear 

I have been contacted directly by Minister Barnett with regard to the release of my response to your request made under the Right to Information Act 2009 (the Act) for information relating to the Australian of the Year awards.

In response to media claims that the redacted portion of the email of 26 March 2015 from Minister Barnett to the DPAC Secretary, Greg Johannes, with copy to the Premier's Chief of Staff, Brad Stansfield, contains certain information, Minister Barnett has requested that I release this email as an unredacted document.

Whilst I consider my ruling under section 35 of the Act to be correct, given Mr Barnett's request of me I have decided to release the email in full under the provision of section 12 of the Act.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions on telephone 6232 7116 or email scott.marston@dpac.tas.gov.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott".

Scott Marston
Deputy Secretary, Corporate & Governance
Delegated RTI Officer for the Premier

12/10/16

From: "Barnett, Guy (DPaC)" <Guy.Barnett@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Date: 26 March 2015 6:08:45 pm AEDT
To: "Johannes, Greg (DPaC)" <Greg.Johannes@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Cc: "Stansfield, Brad (DPaC)" <Brad.Stansfield@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Subject: Tasmania's Australian of the Year- review of nomination process

Greg

I refer to the above, our recent discussions and my recent conversation with Brad Stansfield.

As previously discussed and based on my own research and discussions with the office of National Australia Day Council there are a range of concerns with the above which include the following:

1. The selection panel for the Tasmanian -Australian of the year, has a majority of mainland selectors over Tasmanian selectors-8 of 13.
2. Few nominations are received in the various categories.
3. Limited scrutiny and/or vetting of the nominees.

I am also advised that each state has the power to determine, at least to a significant extent, it's own selection process. Even if this were not the case it is important to ensure confidence in the selection process and questions exist regarding the current arrangements.

Accordingly I request a brief for the Parliamentary Liberal Party confirming or otherwise the concerns identified and providing further background as appropriate, and options to improve the nomination process. I will copy Brad with this email.

If you have any queries regarding the above please do not hesitate to make contact.

Guy Barnett
Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier

Sent from my iPad