



Queensland Parliamentary Service

THE CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENT

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Your Ref:

Our Ref:

2 October 2014

Mr Peter Wellington MP
Member for Nicklin
PO Box 265
NAMBOUR QLD 4560

Dear Mr Wellington

Booking for the Undumbi Room from 6 to 8 pm on Tuesday 28 October 2014

It has come to our attention that the above mentioned booking is for the purpose of the Lock the Gate Alliance to conduct a debate of the so called "People's Common Rights and Provisions Bill 2014".

Members of the Lock the Gate Alliance have recently exhibited conduct on the parliamentary precinct in contravention of the Parliamentary Service By-law 2013 by seeking to display and create material associated with a political cause or campaign.

In doing so, members of the Lock the Gate Alliance gained access to the Parliamentary precinct by booking a tour under a different name. Whilst on the tour, it is apparent they also conspired to distract a Parliamentary Officer in order to conduct activities to promote their cause. Subsequent to the tour it is apparent that they disregarded the instructions given to them by a Parliamentary Officer not to post any images taken on the tour to social media.

In addition to the contravention of relevant By-laws, it is our view that certain members of the Lock the Gate Alliance, in seeking to promote their cause or campaign referred to as the so called "People's Common Rights and Provisions Bill 2014", exhibited behaviour on the parliamentary precinct that is inconsistent with the dignity of the Parliament.

This incident has also caused the Parliamentary Service to tighten its procedures relating to the use of cameras during public tours. Unfortunately, this will no doubt lessen the experience for the vast majority of persons who conduct themselves appropriately while on the precinct.

In relation to the function in the Undumbi Room, according to the Lock the Gate Alliance website and other materials, the event scheduled for Tuesday 28 October 2014 appears to seek to further promote a political protest, cause or campaign.

In accordance with the Business Rules governing the use of precinct facilities for functions and events, as approved by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly (specifically paragraph 1.2) we advise that, in our view, the nature of the proposed event is inconsistent with the dignity of the Parliament and accordingly the proposed function will not be permitted to take place.

Protest activity has always been prohibited from the Parliamentary precinct in order to prevent any interference with the free performance of members conducting their duties as elected representatives. Political protests are welcome to occur outside of the Parliamentary precinct (the Speaker's Corner area immediately outside the gates to the Old House was established for this very purpose), but not within the Parliamentary precinct.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Ries".

Michael Ries
Acting Clerk of the Parliament

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fiona Simpson".

Hon Fiona Simpson MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Chairperson, Committee of the Legislative Assembly