

12th April 2013

Mr Graham Perrett MP
Federal Member for Moreton
Level 1, Sunnybank Times Square
250 McCullough Street
Sunnybank QLD 4109

18 APR 2013

Dear *Mr Perrett*

Thank you for your correspondence of 19 March 2013 to Australian Federal Police (AFP) Commissioner Negus. I have been asked to respond on the Commissioner's behalf, as I am responsible for the portfolio to which this matter relates.

In your correspondence you request the AFP resume its evaluation of allegations made by you in relation to a political conspiracy designed to harm the Honourable Peter Slipper MP and the Federal Government. Your allegations draw on the findings of Rares J in the Federal Court matter of *Ashby v Commonwealth of Australia (No. 4)* [2012] FCA 1411), and I am conscious that some of the findings are the subject of appeal action to the Federal Court, scheduled to be heard on 2 and 3 May 2013.

Mr Ashby's conduct is central to the overall matters alleged in your correspondence and the AFP would be unable to effectively investigate the activities of alleged co-conspirators in isolation of Mr Ashby's conduct. It would be inappropriate and inconsistent for the AFP to not consider closely the outcome of the Federal Court appeal proceedings to ensure no compromise of the judicial process or undermine any future investigation. I can assure you that the AFP has taken and will continue to take steps to progress this matter and will conduct a thorough evaluation and any subsequent investigation, if assessed that a criminal offence has been committed.

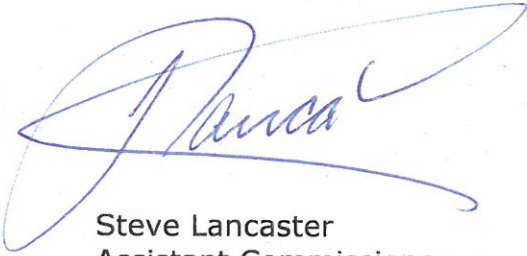
The AFP notes your concerns in relation to the potential loss or destruction of evidence arising from a delay in commencing an investigation. The potential for the loss or destruction of evidence is always a consideration for the AFP and particularly since this matter has existed for some time and given the significant publicity. The AFP has reviewed this aspect as part of the evaluation process and I believe that any critical evidence relevant to the allegations is unlikely to be compromised.

I note your concerns in relation to the pending election. The AFP takes all allegations of this nature seriously and the issue of an election is not a consideration of the AFP with respect to the conduct of investigations.

The matter will remain 'suspended' until the Federal Court appeal is heard on 2 and 3 May 2013 at which time the AFP will reconsider all the circumstances of the allegations. Notwithstanding, the AFP will continue preliminary actions as necessary and in parallel with the Federal court appeal. Any further evidence available at the conclusion of the Federal Court Hearing will be considered by the AFP. You will be advised of the progress of the matter shortly after that date.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further _____
is available on _____ or by email at _____

Yours sincerely



Steve Lancaster
Assistant Commissioner
Crime Operations