

## REVIEW OF THE ALLEGATIONS ATTRIBUTED TO THE FORMER STATE ARCHIVIST ABOUT THE QUEENSLAND STATE ARCHIVES' ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2017-18, 2018-19 AND 2019-20

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### 1. BACKGROUND

A number of statements attributed to the former State Archivist Mr Mike Summerell in relation to his annual reports have recently appeared in the media. These statements include allegations that:

- (a) he was pressured to remove any content from his draft of the Queensland State Archives' annual reports for 2017-18 and 2018-19 that could be perceived negatively;
- (b) for two years he was directed to create misleading annual reports to Parliament by then Department of Housing and Public Works' senior officials to avoid anything embarrassing or damaging to the Government; and
- (c) his attempts to raise concerns through the annual report were interfered with in both 2017-18 and 2019-20 (collectively the Allegations).

On 1 February 2022, the Premier announced that the Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet would look into the Allegations.

#### 2. SCOPE OF WORK

The Director-General will oversee a review that will gather all relevant documentary evidence in relation to the Allegations with a view to assessing whether the Allegations are substantiated.

The Allegations will be considered in the context of relevant legislation and policies including the *Code of Conduct For the Queensland Public Service*.

#### 3. METHODOLOGY

The review will:

- (a) gather and examine relevant documentation held by Government departments relating to the drafting and finalisation of the Queensland State Archives' annual reports for 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20;
- (b) consider whether there are any matters that involve, or may involve, corrupt conduct that require referral to the Crime and Corruption Commission under section 38 of the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*;
- (c) consider whether there are any matters that involve, or may involve, misconduct under the *Public Service Act 2008*; and
- (d) consider whether there are any matters that may otherwise warrant disciplinary action under the *Public Service Act 2008*.

These Terms of Reference have been reviewed and settled by an external Queen's Counsel. Likewise, the process will be considered, and the findings arising from the review will be settled, by the Queen's Counsel. Subject to any confidentiality obligations, the findings will be published.

#### 4. TIMING

The review will be finalised by no later than 4 March 2022, contingent on the volume and nature of material under consideration.