

Symn Waters

From: Symn Waters
Sent: Thursday, 13 December 2018 9:37 AM
To: 'cate.faehrmann@parliament.nsw.gov.au'; 'justin.field@parliament.nsw.gov.au'
Cc: 'Jenny Leong'
Subject: RE: IMPORTANT: NSW Greens at a crossroads
Attachments: 2018 11 02 - Letter to John McKenzie - covering up fraud.pdf; 2018 11 21 - Letter to John McKenzie - corruption.pdf; 2018 11 29 - Letter to John McKenzie - criminal activities.pdf

Dear Ms Faehrmann and Mr Field

I have given a great deal of thought to your E-mail of yesterday (as below), as forwarded to me by a member of The Greens. Before I go any further, I will state that I have been a staunch proponent of and voter of The Greens all my adult life. I have grave concerns as to where The Greens are headed, and of the conduct of certain individuals within the party.

I have lived in Newtown for a large number of years, and you would therefore know that Jenny Leong is my local Member of Parliament. I raised with Jenny my concerns that corrupt activity was taking place within a department as funded by the taxpayer and which is also answerable to the NSW Parliament. Jenny claims that my initial E-mail to her office was 'overlooked' and no action was taken. I again raised the same issue with Jenny and her office, and no response was received.

I politely and respectfully asked Jenny for a response, which she said she would send, however, I then received a rather terse E-mail from Jenny, stating that I had 'confronted' her (I did not), that no response from her office would be forthcoming, and further that I was not to raise this issue with either her or her office again. This left me rather staggered, to say the least.

I then wrote to Jenny, again politely requesting that she deal with the issue that I had previously raised with her, and now calling into question her own conduct as it appeared that Jenny was attempting to turn a blind eye to issues of serious wrongdoing, and I copied this letter to Richard Di Natale. Jenny neither responded, nor did she take the action required of her as a Member of the NSW Government.

My employment within the legal profession requires that I be enlisted as a Justice of the Peace, and my application for such must go through my local member. My employer duly wrote to Jenny Leong and provided the necessary documentation in order that I become a Justice of the Peace and be able to witness documents within the practice. However, and despite Jenny stating in writing that all documentation as provided to her was in order, Jenny declined to forward my nomination as she felt 'uncomfortable' due to our interactions. Our only real interactions were me raising issues of misconduct and Jenny's turning of a blind eye to seeming corrupt conduct.

Jenny then, in her E-mail to me, stated that as my paperwork was in order, I should provide my documentation to a different Member of Parliament. Jenny was provided with my application on 8 November 2018, and has not returned that paperwork to me. As the said application has to be made before 11 January 2019, Jenny Leong is clearly attempting to stymie the progress of the said application, and all because I called her and her conduct into question. This is hardly acceptable behaviour on the part of a Parliamentary Member.

Lest there be any doubt at all in relation to the allegations made regarding corrupt conduct, please find attached copies of correspondence to Mr John McKenzie, Legal Services Commissioner, of 2 November 2018, 21 November 2018, and 29 November 2018. The wrongdoing, as succinctly laid out, is both clear and obvious; as is also Jenny Leong's turning of a blind eye to such. Jenny has previously received a copy of all the attached letters.

Further, Jenny Leong was quite prepared to stand up in Parliament, using Parliamentary privilege to do so, making allegations of a hearsay nature against a member of her own party, ie Mr Jeremy Buckingham. I do not know Jeremy Buckingham, nor do I know if the allegations as made against Mr Buckingham are indeed correct, however, neither does Jenny Leong, as Jenny was not present when the said activity was (or indeed was not) carried out. This is bizarre conduct.

I thank you for your time, and I wish you well in your endeavours in dealing with the issues within the NSW Greens, however, I think you have quite a job on your hands and the NSW Greens may indeed splinter. It is a shame that certain members of the party are unable to behave themselves in a proper and decent fashion.

In order to provide a level of transparency and fairness, I copy this E-mail to Ms Leong.

Yours faithfully

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From: "Cate & Justin, Greens MPs" <justin.field@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12 December 2018 at 3:36:38 pm AEDT
To:
Subject: IMPORTANT: NSW Greens at a crossroads

Dear NSW Greens members, local groups, office bearers, councillors and Greens MPs,

We joined the Greens because it is the only party that understands the urgency of saving the planet, getting action on climate change and creating a more equal society.

Unfortunately, recent events have damaged the NSW Greens standing in the eyes of members and the wider community. This has become a crisis that not only threatens to derail our upcoming election campaigns but the party itself.

The NSW Greens is at a crossroads and urgent action is necessary to prevent an irrevocable split of the party.

The recent actions of one of our Greens colleagues using parliamentary privilege to make unsubstantiated allegations against Jeremy Buckingham to pressure him to resign was distressing for many members, including us. So, too, was the profoundly anti-democratic behaviour at last weekend's State Delegates Council.

Clearly, if Jeremy is forced to withdraw, a recount is required so that those members who voted for him can have their preferences represented on the final makeup of the ticket. This is the only way to ensure the democratic intention of the membership is reflected at the state election in March.

Also distressingly, the NSW Greens have been undermined by a deliberate and systematic effort by a small group of members motivated by extreme left ideology. Theirs is a deeply divisive form of politics that poisons goodwill and destabilised our core principles as Greens. Left Renewal was formed almost two years ago and since then a large group of people from the entryist 'revolutionary socialist' organisation *Solidarity* have joined and become active in the NSW Greens. Their involvement and combative approach to the party has been endorsed and encouraged by a few current and recent Greens MPs and senior party officials.

As a result, as Greens MPs who have dedicated decades to supporting, building and representing this party, we are giving serious consideration to whether we can continue as members of the NSW Greens.

We know we are not alone. In recent weeks we have been inundated by members and supporters who have contacted us expressing similar sentiments.

The animosity, lack of trust and bad faith pursued by these wrecking forces within the party has reached a point where two immediate actions are required to demonstrate a genuine commitment to improve democracy and accountability in the party, and to remove destructive forces.

By next Monday 17 December we require a binding agreement from the party for the following:

1. A process for a democratic recount of the ballots for the recent preselection for the NSW Legislative Council ticket for 2019, with Jeremy Buckingham's votes redistributed, and agreement that the outcome is formally endorsed as the new ticket order if Jeremy decides to step down from the ballot.
2. That *Solidarity* and the NSW Greens 'socialist tendency' called *Left Renewal* be added to the list of proscribed organisations under Section 2.13 of the NSW Greens constitution and the party commence a process to expel people who remain members of these organisations from the NSW Greens.

To do this the NSW Greens Secretary will need to initiate the Quick Decision Making (QDM) process in the NSW Greens constitution and it will require members to step forward and actively work to ensure this QDM is supported.

To this end we are encouraging members and supporters to [sign up here](#) to an open letter calling on the party to support these changes. We would welcome your support by signing on.

Of course these are only the first steps to reform and rebuilding good will, but without urgent agreement to these actions we have no faith the change that needs to happen will occur.

We have dedicated ourselves to the Greens over decades because we have been inspired by the passion and commitment of thousands of members like you to Greens values and principles.

Honesty, integrity, due process and natural justice - these are fundamental values that any voter should expect in a political party and candidates putting themselves forward for election. Currently the NSW Greens cannot claim to be meeting these most basic tests.

To those members who have contacted us and to the many others who share these concerns we urge you to [add your name to the open letter here](#) and spread the word.

We only have the next decade to act to prevent catastrophic climate change. We have a duty to be directing all of our energy to this urgent campaign, but currently the NSW Greens party is holding us back.

Please forward this letter on to your local group or any other Greens members you know.

Regards,

Cate Faehrmann and Justin Field