

From: Peter Newport <peter.newport@crux.org.nz>
Date: 14 July 2022 at 3:39:27 PM NZST
To: Mike Theelen <mike.theelen@qldc.govt.nz>
Subject: Crux story - QLDC CEO

Dear Mr Theelen,

As you know, Crux has covered not just the procurement situation in detail but also a number of other stories relating to QLDC.

It is now clear to us that you and your senior management team have deliberately lied to Crux as a publisher and to me personally as a journalist over an extended period of time. We asked on numerous occasions if you and QLDC were following your own procurement rules and you stated clearly and with strength for almost a year that you were doing so.

We now know the truth, and it is inconceivable that you did not know the truth then. QLDC had not been following your own procurement rules since 2016 and thousands of transactions worth millions of dollars were non-compliant. The extraordinary meeting of the council in 2021 is proof of that.

However, as we are about to publish an article tomorrow that will publicly label you as a liar it is part of my responsibility as a journalist to ask for your reaction and comment - plus any evidence that might **factually** challenge our position. We have all the emails and evidence that in a court of law, let alone the court of public opinion, would find (without a shadow of doubt) that you and your senior management team lied systemically - across the entire chain from you right down to your comms staff.

I also need to ask you, for the record, if you will resign as a result of this situation?

Our view, and the evidence, points to a critical lack of trust in QLDC due to your behaviour and that of Mayor Jim Boulton. You will have noticed that hardly anyone wants to stand for council in the upcoming elections - and you pretend in public not to know the reason, as you do for the poor results of your own community surveys.

The atmosphere you and the mayor have created is so toxic that hardly anyone can face the prospect of being part of that. This view is based on speaking with numerous community members.

The resignation question is important so that if/when you do decide to resign for "personal" reasons - that we know **your position at this point in time.**

It is important to add that we can't see how we can work with your media/comms team anymore, as they clearly are taking instructions from higher up and those instructions cannot be trusted as being accurate or truthful.

This is a shameful situation and I can't express strongly enough my own personal disappointment that a senior civil servant would behave as you have.

Please let me have your response by 10.00 am tomorrow morning.

Regards,

Peter Newport
Managing Editor
Crux Publishing Ltd
PO Box 1664, Queenstown 9348

Office 03 441 8387
Mobile 021 380 318
crux.org.nz