



Division of
MURCHISON

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Hon Ruth Forrest MLC
Member for Murchison

12 June 2026

Dear Premier,

Thank you for your letter of 11 June 2026.

I wrote to you on 3 June 2026 seeking clear and direct answers regarding the leaking of an email sent on my behalf as Chair of Estimates Committee A, and to ask how his handling of the matter aligns with your stated commitment to leadership, accountability and a respectful workplace culture.

In particular, I asked you to do three things:

1. to confirm or deny whether the leak originated from your office;
2. requested that if this was not the case, to explain what steps you had taken to satisfy yourself that no member of your office was responsible; and
3. to acknowledge the seriousness of the incident and offer a public apology for what had occurred.

Your response does not address these requests.

Instead, you deflect a serious matter and a genuine, respectful request and focused on expressing regret and apology that I have been distressed. This issue is not simply or even predominantly about an individual's distress. It is about the leaking of a communication that contained personal health related information, sent in my capacity as Chair of a Parliamentary Committee. It raises serious questions about accountability, the handling of confidential correspondence, and the standards expected of those in positions of leadership. Your letter does not offer an apology for the action of sharing personal and private health related information to the media which is what I asked for.

Your response is not sufficient.

I particularly note that your response fails to address the substance of the matters I raised:

1. You have not confirmed or denied whether the leak of the email originated from your office, despite my specific request that you do so. Instead, you suggest that how media outlets obtain information is a matter for them. With respect, that is not the question I asked. I asked whether your office was the source. That question remains unanswered.


2. You have offered no account of any steps taken to satisfy yourself that no member of your office was responsible. As I noted in my letter, a number of other Ministers have undertaken at least some level of investigation within their offices. You have declined to do so.
3. Your letter offers a personal expression of regret for the distress I have experienced. I appreciate that but note this was not the subject of the letter I sent to you. In addition, it does not constitute the public apology I sought, nor does it acknowledge that the leak itself was inappropriate conduct. This falls well short of my request.

I am also concerned by the characterisation in your letter of the email as something you "would have expected" to be passed on to a broad cohort of attendees. This appears to suggest the distribution of the email to media was, in your view, foreseeable or appropriate. I reject that characterisation. The email was sent by a Committee Secretary on my behalf as Chair of Estimates Committee A. Regardless of its content, confidential correspondence between a parliamentary committee and the Government is not equivalent to a public communication.

The broader concerns I raised in my letter, that is, the chilling effect on other Members, the implications for parliamentary privilege, the adequacy of workplace safety commitments, and the funding of the Independent Complaints Commissioner, remain entirely unaddressed.

I remain of the view that a public apology is warranted and that you should undertake, at minimum, a basic inquiry into whether your office was involved. I urge you to reconsider your position. I request acknowledgment of receipt of this letter and attention to the requests clearly outlined by Friday 19 June 2026.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruth Forrest', written in a cursive style.

Ruth Forrest MLC
Independent Member for Murchison