



Doug Parkinson, MLC

Leader for the Government in the
Legislative Council

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No substance in Greens claims

The Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, Doug Parkinson, said that despite the Greens' spin, there was no damning evidence in the Nigel Burch email released today.

"The email claims the Premier interfered on a number of occasions in the justice portfolio," Mr Parkinson said.

"But it needs to be clearly understood that the Premier has wide responsibilities across all agencies.

"It's the job of the Premier to involve himself in all portfolios to drive the Government's agenda.

"So that the Premier would involve himself in other ministers' portfolio matters is not inappropriate and should not be considered surprising.

"The community would have a right to be concerned if the Premier of the day took a hands-off role and did not seek to involve himself in all portfolio areas.

"To not engage would amount to a failure to properly discharge his or her duties."

Mr Parkinson said he noted with interest a note at the top of the email in which Mr Burch asked Green MP Kim Booth to "...call me about any suggested changes, then give it to the media."

"This seems to suggest that Mr Burch was willing to change his statement at Mr Booth's request," Mr Parkinson said.

"It raises obvious credibility questions and is suggestive of a cosy relationship between the sender and the receiver.

"The contents of the email clearly need to be interpreted in this light."

Mr Parkinson said the Burch email supported the Premier's repeated response to questions that he played no part in the recommendation for the appointment of a new magistrate Mr Kons brought forward to Cabinet.

"The email claims the Premier wanted Simon Cooper appointed," Mr Parkinson said.

“Whether or not that is true, clearly it did not eventuate.

“So it validates the Premier’s publicly-stated position once-and-for-all.

“If it is to be considered that there is any revelation in this email, it should be that the Greens and Liberals have wrongly refused to accept the Premier’s consistent answer.

“If the Greens are adamant that this email is correct, it can only mean they now accept the Premier played no role.”

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