

**From:** media  
**Sent:** Tue, 13 Apr 2021 12:32:37 +1000  
**To:** Jeff Pope; Louise Parrott; Tom Rogers; media; Executive Leadership Team  
**Cc:** David Lang; Evan Ekin-Smyth  
**Subject:** RE: Courier-Mail: Laming [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Thanks Jeff, will do.

Kind regards,

**Alex Morris | Digital and Social Media Manager**  
Communications Section | Digital Technology & Communications Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission  
T: (02) 6271 4644 X: 21303 M: § 47F

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**From:** Jeff Pope <Jeff.Pope@aec.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 13 April 2021 12:30 PM  
**To:** Louise Parrott <Louise.Parrott@aec.gov.au>; Tom Rogers <Tom.Rogers@aec.gov.au>; media <media@aec.gov.au>; Executive Leadership Team <ExecutiveLeadershipTeam@aec.gov.au>  
**Cc:** David Lang <David.Lang@aec.gov.au>; Evan Ekin-Smyth <Evan.Ekin-Smyth@aec.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Courier-Mail: Laming [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Great, thanks all.

Alex, let's let that sit for a few hours but if you don't hear from us, please send the version including Tom's amendment and the link to the Backgrounder at 3.30.

Thanks

**Jeff Pope | Deputy Electoral Commissioner**  
Executive Leadership Team  
Australian Electoral Commission  
T: (02) 6271 4619 X: 21001 M: § 47F

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**From:** Louise Parrott <[Louise.Parrott@aec.gov.au](mailto:Louise.Parrott@aec.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 13 April 2021 12:28 PM  
**To:** Tom Rogers <[Tom.Rogers@aec.gov.au](mailto:Tom.Rogers@aec.gov.au)>; media <[media@aec.gov.au](mailto:media@aec.gov.au)>; Jeff Pope <[Jeff.Pope@aec.gov.au](mailto:Jeff.Pope@aec.gov.au)>; Executive Leadership Team <[ExecutiveLeadershipTeam@aec.gov.au](mailto:ExecutiveLeadershipTeam@aec.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** David Lang <[David.Lang@aec.gov.au](mailto:David.Lang@aec.gov.au)>; Evan Ekin-Smyth <[Evan.Ekin-Smyth@aec.gov.au](mailto:Evan.Ekin-Smyth@aec.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Courier-Mail: Laming [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Thanks all.

From a legal perspective I am also comfortable with this proposed response.

Louise

**Louise Parrott | Principal Government Lawyer**  
Electoral Authorisation Section | Legal & Procurement Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission  
T: (02) 6271 4759 X: 21418



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**From:** Tom Rogers <[Tom.Rogers@aec.gov.au](mailto:Tom.Rogers@aec.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 13 April 2021 12:21 PM  
**To:** media <[media@aec.gov.au](mailto:media@aec.gov.au)>; Jeff Pope <[Jeff.Pope@aec.gov.au](mailto:Jeff.Pope@aec.gov.au)>; Executive Leadership Team <[ExecutiveLeadershipTeam@aec.gov.au](mailto:ExecutiveLeadershipTeam@aec.gov.au)>; Louise Parrott <[Louise.Parrott@aec.gov.au](mailto:Louise.Parrott@aec.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** David Lang <[David.Lang@aec.gov.au](mailto:David.Lang@aec.gov.au)>; Evan Ekin-Smyth <[Evan.Ekin-Smyth@aec.gov.au](mailto:Evan.Ekin-Smyth@aec.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Courier-Mail: Laming [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Great

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**From:** media <[media@aec.gov.au](mailto:media@aec.gov.au)>  
**Date:** Tuesday, 13 Apr 2021, 12:20  
**To:** Jeff Pope <[Jeff.Pope@aec.gov.au](mailto:Jeff.Pope@aec.gov.au)>, media <[media@aec.gov.au](mailto:media@aec.gov.au)>, Executive Leadership Team <[ExecutiveLeadershipTeam@aec.gov.au](mailto:ExecutiveLeadershipTeam@aec.gov.au)>, Louise Parrott <[Louise.Parrott@aec.gov.au](mailto:Louise.Parrott@aec.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** David Lang <[David.Lang@aec.gov.au](mailto:David.Lang@aec.gov.au)>, Evan Ekin-Smyth <[Evan.Ekin-Smyth@aec.gov.au](mailto:Evan.Ekin-Smyth@aec.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Courier-Mail: Laming [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Thanks Jeff. This pretty closely matches the draft I just discussed with Louise – though I might also suggest at least linking to our Backgrounder on auth requirements, which lays out the potential penalties and was provided to other journalists last week.

Kind regards,

**Alex Morris | Digital and Social Media Manager**  
Communications Section | Digital Technology & Communications Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission  
T: (02) 6271 4644 X: 21303 M: [REDACTED]



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**From:** Jeff Pope <[Jeff.Pope@aec.gov.au](mailto:Jeff.Pope@aec.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 13 April 2021 12:19 PM  
**To:** media <[media@aec.gov.au](mailto:media@aec.gov.au)>; Executive Leadership Team <[ExecutiveLeadershipTeam@aec.gov.au](mailto:ExecutiveLeadershipTeam@aec.gov.au)>; Louise Parrott <[Louise.Parrott@aec.gov.au](mailto:Louise.Parrott@aec.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** David Lang <[David.Lang@aec.gov.au](mailto:David.Lang@aec.gov.au)>; Evan Ekin-Smyth <[Evan.Ekin-Smyth@aec.gov.au](mailto:Evan.Ekin-Smyth@aec.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Courier-Mail: Laming [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Thanks Alex – the following is an early draft response that we may look at sending back at 3.30pm today:

“Other than confirming the AEC has engaged with Facebook, which is public knowledge, the AEC does not publicly comment on the progress of active investigations.”

Will discuss with my ELT colleagues and confirm in due course.

JP

**Jeff Pope | Deputy Electoral Commissioner**  
 Executive Leadership Team  
 Australian Electoral Commission  
 T: (02) 6271 4619 X: 21001 M: § 47F



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**From:** media <[media@aec.gov.au](mailto:media@aec.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 13 April 2021 12:03 PM  
**To:** Executive Leadership Team <[ExecutiveLeadershipTeam@aec.gov.au](mailto:ExecutiveLeadershipTeam@aec.gov.au)>; Louise Parrott <[Louise.Parrott@aec.gov.au](mailto:Louise.Parrott@aec.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** media <[media@aec.gov.au](mailto:media@aec.gov.au)>; David Lang <[David.Lang@aec.gov.au](mailto:David.Lang@aec.gov.au)>; Evan Ekin-Smyth <[Evan.Ekin-Smyth@aec.gov.au](mailto:Evan.Ekin-Smyth@aec.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: Courier-Mail: Laming [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Good afternoon all,

We have received the below media query from News Corp's § 47F Will liaise with Legal Services on a response now but flagging early as this is a sensitive matter.

Kind regards,

**Alex Morris | Digital and Social Media Manager**  
 Communications Section | Digital Technology & Communications Branch  
 Australian Electoral Commission  
 T: (02) 6271 4644 X: 21303 M: § 47F

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**From:** [REDACTED] <sup>s 47F</sup> [@news.com.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@news.com.au)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 13 April 2021 11:58 AM  
**To:** media <[media@aec.gov.au](mailto:media@aec.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Courier-Mail: Laming

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the Australian Federal Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon.

The AEC last week revealed it would investigate LNP Bowman MP Andrew Laming for potential breaches of electoral laws over more than 30 Facebook pages he allegedly operated with electoral authorization.

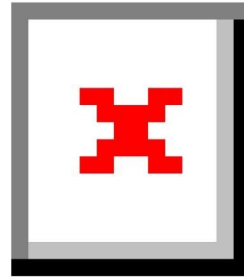
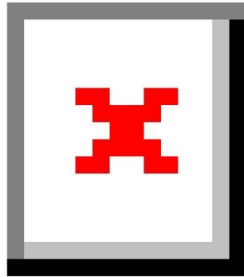
- 1) Could the AEC provide an update on the investigation?
- 2) Particularly its findings if the investigation has concluded?
- 3) Or if it is ongoing, when the AEC expects the investigation to conclude?
- 4) In order to look into this issue, who will or has the AEC approached?
- 5) Generally, what are the consequences of breaching electoral law in this way?

Thank you. Hoping for a response by 3.30pm please.

Cheers,

[REDACTED] <sup>s 47F</sup>

Journalist

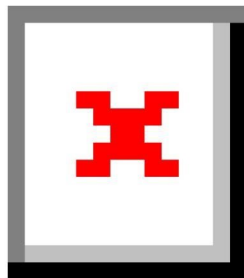


Cnr Mayne Road & Campbell Street Bowen Hills QLD 4006

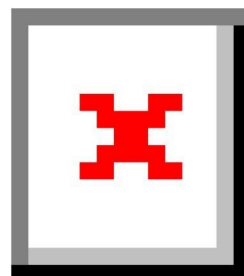
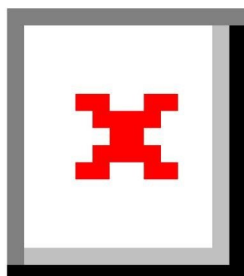
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@news.com.au W [www.couriermail.com.au](http://www.couriermail.com.au)

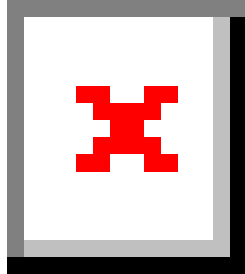


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