

STATUTORY DECLARATION

I, ANDREW JOHN CASTRIQUE of ⁶ [REDACTED]
do hereby solemnly and sincerely declare ⁸ [REDACTED] and declare as follows:

1. I am the National Secretary of the Australian Democrats and have been duly appointed pursuant to the constitution of that organisation.
2. I received a SMS message from Hayden Patterson, a former committee member of the Australian Democrats on Tuesday 5th March 2019 at 5:31pm.
3. The text message from Hayden Patterson stated:

¹ [REDACTED] ⁷ [REDACTED] *Called my mobile is after you could you call him".*
4. I responded to Hayden Patterson by text on Thursday, 7th March 2019 and stated:

"Thought I would ring him on the weekend. Plenty of time then."
5. As a result of the SMS messages particularised in paragraphs 3 and 4 above, I telephoned ¹ [REDACTED] at 7.50pm on Wednesday 13th March 2019. The records from my mobile telephone indicate the telephone conversation lasted for 17 minutes and 34 seconds.
6. During the telephone conversation I rang and introduced myself and spoke very little after that other than to acknowledge that I had understood the comments made by ¹ [REDACTED]
7. ¹ [REDACTED] identified himself as representing Australian Democrats Queensland Incorporated. He informed me that he had noticed that we were progressing to register with the Australian Electoral Commission as a political party and congratulated me and the National Executive on the effort and merger with Country Minded.
8. ¹ [REDACTED] then suggested that the Australian Democrats and the Australian Democrats Queensland Incorporated should join together. ¹ [REDACTED] then said words to the effect of:

"we don't want to go the way of the AAT again".

9.

1 [REDACTED]

- (a) Informed me that the constitution that was on public display on the Australian Electoral Office website had deficiencies and serious problems but did not elaborate on what those deficiencies or serious problems were.
- (b) Made comment again about the merger with Country Minded and stated that the Australian Democrats had been looking to merge with other like-minded small parties for many years and had enlisted the help of former Senator Lyn Allison without success.
- (c) Asked me if he could talk with Elisa Resce who is our National President because she must have good negotiating skills to arrange a merger with Country Minded.
- (d) Told me that he had spoken with Michael Macklin, a life member of the Australian Democrats in Queensland who had suggested that Elisa Resce was a capable negotiator.
- (e) Stated that the Australian Democrats Queensland Incorporated should be recognised as the Queensland division of the Australian Democrats and that Paul Stevenson should be the lead Queensland Senate Candidate. 1 [REDACTED] then went on to state that Paul Stevenson was known in Queensland and across Australia and that he would be the logical choice of candidate for the senate in Queensland.
- (f) Went on to state that if there was an objection to our registration, due to the tight timeframe to the next federal election any objection could delay our registration until after the election was called and while such an objection would not be good for his ambitions or ours, the delay caused by the objection that he threatened to lodge would be worse for us.
- (g) Spoke about how according to our constitution members can nominate which division they are in, members can be in one state but be members for another state division. So, our Queensland members could join another division.
- (h) Stated that if he lodged an objection and we then settled our differences he would withdraw his objection even after the Australian Electoral Commission
- 4 [REDACTED] had closed the objection period. 4 [REDACTED]

- (i) Confirmed that he had checked with the Australian Electoral Commission and they had confirmed to him that he could withdraw an objection that he has lodged at any stage and the objection would be immediately removed thereby allowing registration to proceed.
10. I took the above statements particularised in paragraph 9 above to constitute a threat by ¹ [REDACTED] to lodge a baseless objection against the registration of the Australian Democrats unless his demands were met.
11. From the phone conversation particularised above I understand the demands by ¹ [REDACTED] to be as follows:
- (a) That the Australian Democrats Queensland Incorporated is recognised as the Queensland Division of the Australian Democrats;
 - (b) Paul Stevenson be endorsed as the Queensland Senate Candidate; and
 - (c) That ¹ [REDACTED] would lodge an objection to the registration of the Australian Democrats as a political party unless his demands were agreed to with the objection only being withdrawn in the event that the demands as set out in (a) and (b) above are agreed to.
12. ¹ [REDACTED] indicated to me that he would call me in a few days and I suggested late weekend.
13. ¹ [REDACTED] agreed that he would call me back late Sunday and indicated that he hoped to speak with Elisa Resce.

14. I have not had any further contact with ¹ [REDACTED] since the date of the phone call

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of the *Oaths Act, 1936-1969*.

Declared and subscribed by the above-named
declarant at SOMERTON PARK S.A.
this 20th day of MARCH 2019
before me:

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Andrew John Castagne

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[REDACTED]
Justice of the Peace
Commissioner for Declarations

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JP No. 21489
*A Justice of the Peace
for South Australia*

Freedom of Information Release

REDACTION CODES

- 1 Personal Information (name) redacted.
- 2 Personal Information (date of birth) redacted.
- 3 Personal Information (photograph) redacted
- 4 Personal Information (facsimile of signature) redacted.
- 5 Personal Information (facsimile of manuscript initialling) redacted.
- 6 Personal Information (Individual's address) redacted.
- 7 Personal Information (individual's telephone number) redacted.
- 8 Personal Information (individual's opinion) redacted.
- 9 Personal Information (opinion about individual) redacted.
- 10 Personal Information (employment history) redacted.
- 11 Personal Information (qualifications) redacted.
- 12 Personal Information (health) redacted.
- 13 Personal Information (identifying individual) redacted.
- 14 Business information (Bank Account details) redacted.
- 15 Business information (Billing Account details) redacted.
- 16 Business information (internal operations) redacted.
- 17 Legal Professional Communication redacted.
- 18 Deliberative material redacted.
- 19 Irrelevant material redacted.
- 20 Electoral Roll material redacted.
- 21 Tests, examinations or audits material redacted.
- 22 Management or assessment of personnel material redacted.
- 23 Proper and efficient conduct of the operations of AEC material redacted.
- 24 Lawful methods or procedures for preventing, detecting, investigating, or dealing with matters arising out of, breaches or evasions of the law.