

PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Federal Member for Fairfax
Federal Leader of the Palmer United Party
Clive Palmer MP**

Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP
Prime Minister of Australia
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

Just a quick note to warmly congratulate you on becoming the new Prime Minister of Australia.

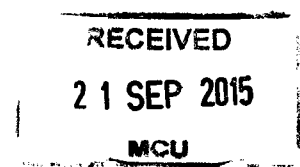
I wish you every success in your new appointment and look forward to constructive conversations when we meet again.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clive'.

Clive Palmer
Federal Member for Fairfax

15 September 2015



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**Federal Member for Fairfax
Federal Leader of the Palmer United Party
Clive Palmer MP**

The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP
Prime Minister of Australia
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

Re Marriage and Civil Unions

I am writing to you to advise you of Palmer United Party policy in respect of the above issue.

This policy was developed by a team of 12 people having extensive consultations with interested parties around Australia over a 12 months period. I can report it has strong support from the community and both sides of the issue.

I am personally concerned that a plebiscite on this issue cannot address the critical issue which is self-evident in the attached policy document. A plebiscite may entrenched views, create greater division and destroy social harmony.

Prime Minister, please read the one page enclosed document. Is there a way in which myself and Senator Wang could work with the Government and the Parliament for a better outcome on this issue?

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Clive F. Palmer'.

for Clive F. Palmer

20 November 2015

MARRIAGE AND CIVIL UNIONS

Men and Women of Australia

Unlike many countries, the Australian Constitution gives the Australian Government power over marriages, which is a power that Palmer United believes the Commonwealth need not, and should not, exercise. Many churches are worried that same-sex couples will take legal action against them, forcing them to admit and marry people against their beliefs. It has long been accepted that separation between Church and State forms the basis of any democracy. We need to ensure that the reach of Government does not direct or require any religious organisations or churches to act against their beliefs. Likewise we must ensure that all citizens are equal under the law. Palmer United policy does not support a plebiscite on gay marriage. Any plebiscite will only divide the community and lead to bitterness and division of our society. We need to have unity, acceptance and a consensus in the values we believe in as Australians. True to those values, we must protect the rights of our churches and religious organisations, along with the rights of all our citizens, to be equal under the law. They are not mutually exclusive.

Marriage must be taken out of all Australian Government legislation and must be left to the sole jurisdiction of the churches. All citizens must have the right to a civil union recognised by the Australian Government. No citizen or couple should have the right to force any church to marry them. To feel welcome and part of common beliefs is important for any person being a member of any organisation. Any couple who has a civil union can be married if a church consents to admit them to marriage. Marriage should be the sole preserve of the churches, as it goes to the core religious belief of individuals. No person should seek to be a member of any church that does not make them welcome or allow them to worship and be married. The word religion means 'way of life' and government must be separate from religion. As Mark 12:17 tells us "And Jesus answering said unto them "Render to Caesar's the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (King James version).

The Labor Party and Liberal Party have the same policy to have a plebiscite which puts off any decision for years and will lead to further bitterness and division in our community. We need to deal with this matter as soon as possible and move on to the important issues facing the nation.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy Christmas and much happiness in the future.

All the best,

Clive Palmer

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The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP
Prime Minister of Australia
PO Box 6022
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Dear Prime Minister

RE: Queensland Nickel Pty Ltd

Notwithstanding your or my comments in the press about the above matter, I am duty bound to write to you to make it absolutely clear so that you have the relevant facts of the matter.

In 2009, when BHP Billiton had decided to close the facility and devastate the North Queensland economy, the world nickel price was higher than US\$7 per pound. Today, the world nickel price is US\$3.80 per pound and the plant is still in operation, employing directly over 550 people and providing a further 1600 jobs from its activities to the people of Townsville.

In 2009, following discussion with the then labor Queensland Premier Anna Bligh, companies that I own agreed to inject tens of millions of dollars for the acquisition of Queensland Nickel and to operate it more efficiently and continue to impact the employment of thousands of people.

The productivity gained in the plant's operations is the best achieved in any manufacturing facility in Australia, where the cost of production has halved in comparison to the cost of production under the former BHP management. The excellent work carried out by the management of Queensland Nickel has allowed over \$4bn to be invested in North Queensland since 2009.

As you are aware, the management and workers of the plant can only concentrate on their cost base. As a 100% export plant, they are totally dependent upon the world commodity prices. During our meeting late last year in Sydney, I made you aware that the Nickel price had collapsed since October 2015.

The company's auditors, Ernst & Young, signed an auditor's report including solvency of the company in September 2015. At that time it was my understanding the company had projected a surplus of \$73m for the year and, in the audited accounts, had a net asset base of \$1.95bn and no substantial debt. It was reasonable to assume that a banking institution would have funded a small amount of debt on the balance sheet. For reasons best known to the Treasurer, they failed to do so.

In contrast to the Australian Government's attitude in respect of our metals manufacturing industry, the Canadian Government has waived all charges for power and electricity for all their metals manufacturers due to the low commodity prices. The Chinese Government has provided CNY\$30,000,000,000 directly to its metals manufacturing industry. It is disappointing that the Australian Government on this issue is more interested in taking cheap political shots against a management team that has worked so hard to achieve a positive outcome for the company and the country that the Australian Government has obfuscated its duty to ensure there is a level playing field for Australian manufacturers under the World Trade Organisation.

Other Issues

Whilst there have been other issues raised in the press, we have to remember that 22,000 jobs have been lost in Queensland in the resource industry because of declining resource prices, international manipulation of those prices and the failure of the government to even be alive to these issues. These are issues for which the Australian Government refuses to take any actions necessary to counterbalance the effect of these measures on our economy.

The media coverage of this matter has been politicised without addressing the real issues. From a policy perspective, there has been the redundancy of 237 workers in Townsville which has had the effect of preserving jobs for the 550 workers that are still employed directly by Queensland Nickel and jobs for the 1600 workers that depend upon the refinery operations in Townsville.

I have been informed that on the Thursday, when redundancies were carried out, each employee of Queensland Nickel was immediately paid two weeks wages in advance pending final calculation of their entitlements in accordance with the Fair Work Act.

During the period when calculating their entitlements, the director of the company, in accordance with obligations under corporation law, appointed an administrator to the company. That administrator then made the determination that workers' entitlements would not be paid under the administrators and would be subject to a deed of arrangement. Neither the shareholders nor the management had any decision making powers over such matters and it is therefore very unreasonable for there to be any attack politically on the management of the company pending the outcome of the administrators' report. There can be no doubt that in the years from 2009 onwards, when the company was subject to audit, that it met all solvency tests as certified by the company auditor.

There has been substantial comment by your ministers that raised the question whether a private family-owned company, which is certified as being fully solvent, has the right to donate funds to the political party of its choosing. As you should be aware, in the years prior to 2013, the political party which you lead, was the beneficiary of substantial donations from Queensland Nickel Pty Ltd. I have heard no such criticism in respect to those donations. Moreover, it is not reasonable or proper to make comments in respect of matters that are subject to any administrators' report while that report is being compiled.

As you are aware, as I have publicly stated at the time following my election to the federal parliament, I have retired from business. I am concerned with the decline of jobs in the country and the systematic failure of the Australian and State Governments to seriously address industrial policy in this country.

Yours faithfully,



Clive F Palmer
Federal Member for Fairfax

4 February 2016



PRIME MINISTER

Reference: C15/121697

16 DEC 2015

Mr Clive Palmer MP
Federal Leader of the Palmer United Party
PO Box 1978
SUNSHINE PLAZA QLD 4558

Dear Mr Palmer *Clive*

Thank you for your letter dated 20 November 2015 attaching the Palmer United Party policy on marriage and civil unions.

I understand that there are a range of deeply held views throughout the community on this issue. The Coalition has committed to a democratic process to seek the views of the community through a plebiscite after the next election.

You may be aware that my personal view is to support changing the definition of marriage in the *Marriage Act 1961* to allow for same sex marriage.

Whether or not you share that view, it is important that this debate is undertaken thoughtfully and with respect for different views.

I thank you for sharing your views with me.

Yours sincerely

s 22

MALCOLM TURNBULL



PRIME MINISTER

Reference: C15/101762

13 OCT 2015

Mr Clive Palmer MP
Federal Member for Fairfax
Federal Leader of the Palmer United Party
PO Box 1978
SUNSHINE PLAZA QLD 4558

Dear Mr Palmer

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clive".

Thank you for your very kind message of congratulations.

The responsibility of this office is both humbling and inspiring.

This is the most exciting time to be an Australian; the opportunities for our nation, its people and its businesses have never been so numerous and diverse.

But to succeed in a rapidly expanding global market and to remain a high wage, generous social welfare net first world economy we need to be more agile, creative, productive and innovative.

The keen focus of my Government will be on achieving this and by doing so securing the jobs and the prosperity of our children and grandchildren.

Thanks again for writing to me and I look forward to your help and good counsel in the future.

Yours sincerely

s 22

MALCOLM TURNBULL