

From: Dr Joe McGirr MP <waggawagga@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 12:50 PM
To: secretariat <secretariat@psa.asn.au>
Subject: Re: 2023 NSW State Election (Case Ref: JM22867)

Good afternoon Mr Little,

Please see below correspondence from Dr Joe McGirr MP in relation to the 2023 State Election Priorities.

Point 1 – The end of privatization of public owned assets

In relation to privatisation of NSW public services, I have stated that there has been enough. Privatisation cannot be ruled out completely as there could be good arguments for it in certain circumstances. Mostly, there is a strong case against privatisation especially, with the example of the privatisation of Transgrid and poles and wires. I would in particular object to privatisation of Forestry Corp or NSW Water. Ultimately I believe that the role of Government is important to society and for a good society, and that Government needs to maintain a top tier public service.

Point 2 – Wage cap

I am supportive of the PSA's campaign to have the 2.5% wage cap lifted. However, I think it should be for a period of two to three years, then reviewed and evaluated. I am of the view that wage increases should be linked to productivity; that is, we all need to improve the way we operate. In addition, I note that the Industrial Relations Commission should be available to settle disputes between the employer and the unions.

Point 3 - Neutrality and independence of NSW IRC

The neutrality of the NSW Industrial Relations Commission both in practice and in perception is of extreme importance to their faith, trust and effectiveness, especially when the decisions they make impact so many. I believe that current and future members of the commission should have to satisfy the conflict of interest elements test as advocated by the Independent Commission Against Corruption published in their April 2019 report MANAGING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST IN THE NSW PUBLIC SECTOR, that is:

1. Does the official have a personal interest?
2. Does the official have a public duty?
3. Is there a connection between the personal interest and the public duty?
4. Could a reasonable person perceive that the personal interest might be favoured?

I would be happy to consult with the PSA on working together on a well-reasoned and fair strategy.

Point 4 - Temporary employment crisis

The temporary employment crisis in the education sector is definitely one I agree needs urgent resolving. People employed on temporary contracts for more than three years should be able to have a permanent contract.

Point 5 - Repeal of Government Sector Employment Act 2013

This is a very large piece of legislation. I would be happy to consult with the PSA on working together on concerns and developing a strategy to address these.

Dr Joe McGirr MP
Member for Wagga Wagga