



Premier of Queensland
Minister for Trade

For reply please quote: *ECP/AH – TF/20/33617 – DOC/20/272424*

11 JUN 2021

Mr Alex Scott
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Dear Mr Scott

Thank you for your letter of 17 December 2020 regarding wage rates for Senior Officers across the Queensland public service and I apologise for the delay in responding.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated, the hard work and dedication of our public sector is critical to the ongoing delivery of quality services to Queenslanders, particularly during challenging times. That is why the Government remains firmly committed to the fair and equitable remuneration of our valued public sector workforce.

In response to the economic impacts of COVID-19, my Government introduced legislation in June last year to defer wages for the Queensland public sector during the 2020–21 financial year. While this legislation only covers those public sector employees whose conditions are set by industrial instruments, it was determined that a wage increase for Senior Officers would not be appropriate at that time.

The decision to defer wages was not taken lightly, but it is one of many fiscally responsible measures my Government has implemented to support the ongoing recovery of Queensland's economy. Our savings and debt plan extends far beyond the wage deferral for public servants and includes a wide range of initiatives, such as a commitment to not establish new functions, cutting back on non-essential activities, and ensuring that agencies are focused on delivering essential frontline services.

Nonetheless, I acknowledge your concerns in relation to a delay in implementing an interim 2.5 per cent wage increase for Senior Officers. As noted in your letter, I agree that honouring our commitment to provide this pay increase is an important recognition of the hard work and dedication of our Senior Officers.

As such, my Government reaffirms our commitment to implement a 2.5 per cent wage increase for Senior Officers from 1 September 2019, to be paid on 1 July 2021 following the conclusion of the 2020–21 wage deferral period. I have asked the Public Service Commission Chief Executive to prepare a new *SO Employment Conditions Directive* to issue the wage increase for Senior Officers for implementation as early as possible.

I am also pleased to advise that an additional wage increases of 2.5 per cent will be provided to Senior Officers from 1 September 2021, 1 March 2022 and 1 September 2022 in line with the recent wages outcome for the *State Government Entities Certified Agreement 2019*.

By delivering a strong fiscal agenda, my Government will continue to support Queensland's recovery from the economic impacts of COVID-19. However, I can assure you that providing for fair and equitable remuneration across the public sector remains a priority. In balancing these considerations, my Government continues to ensure our valued public sector workforce is supported to deliver the essential frontline services Queenslanders deserve.

Again, thank you for writing to me on this important matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized initial 'A' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

**ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND
MINISTER FOR TRADE**