

Shadow Minister for Regional Communications
Shadow Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government

Mr Grant Hehir
Australian National Audit Office
GPO Box 707
Canberra ACT 2601

26 March 2018

Dear Mr Hehir,

I am writing in regard to the Regional Jobs and Investment Package Program for Tropical North Queensland administered by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development.

Concerns have been raised about an award of a \$2.4 million grant to QRX Group 1 under the program. Two specific allegations have been made:

- that there may have been a conflict of interest associated with the chain of decision making;
- that the grant may not meet the objectives of the program.

It has been alleged that a conflict arises because the Chair of the TNQ RJIP Committee which was established to identify investment priorities for the region, Mr Twomey also has a financial interest in the QRX Group 1, through his wife who is a one-third shareholder of that company.

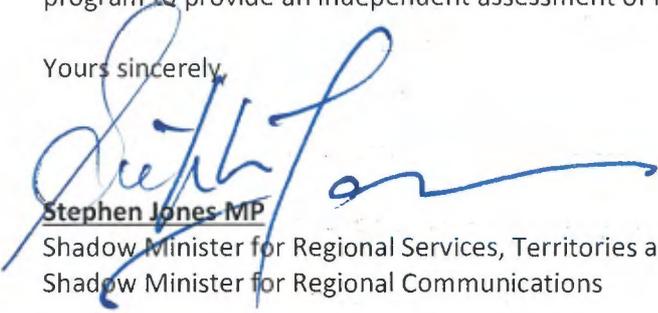
This situation has raised concerns that the Cairns local investment plan was written to facilitate the awarding of this grant to QRX Group.

Separate allegations have been made the proposed project is not capable of creating the jobs which are central to the design of the scheme.

I am attaching copies of relevant articles from the Cairns Post where these concerns have been raised.

When allegations of this type are raised it is better for all parties that they are investigated by specialist and independent bodies. I therefore ask you to consider conducting an audit of this program to provide an independent assessment of its administration.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Jones MP

Shadow Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government;
Shadow Minister for Regional Communications

Encl.