

Don Pinwill Candidate Division 6

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FACTS - NOT ELECTION WHISPERS

As a candidate for Division 6 South Burnett Regional Council in the 2012 election I was made aware of a whispering campaign directed against myself as a result of members of my family being involved with police and courts over events which took place in Kingaroy during 2002.

At the time of the election I did not respond to these whispers because I did not regard them as relevant to my abilities as a Councillor. Since that time I have become mindful of just how much damage these whispers caused to my chances of election. As a candidate once again, I feel I must inform voters of some very relevant facts. Few people have any idea as to the truth behind these events or of the trauma my family suffered. The following information is put forward so that people and voters are able to form their opinions with a more accurate understanding.

The police officer in charge of the investigation regarding my family members has since been exposed as corrupt. The Gympie Times on July 27 2009 reported, "(Officers Name) resigned from Qld police after misconduct charges were proven (by the Crime and Misconduct Commission) but before disciplining action could be taken against him."(sic) The injusticequeensland web site gives these details, "(Officers Name) was forced to resign from the police service to avoid prosecution in similar activities, that is, conspiring with witnesses to give false evidence against others and stealing informants' payments of approximately \$80,000." The Courier Mail also ran articles on this corruption.

The prosecutions witness, who supplied to police the statement of accusations against my family members which then resulted in charges being laid, gave the only adverse evidence presented by the prosecution. There was no other adverse evidence of any description, no other witnesses and nothing forensic. The prosecution relied totally on a statement by this one man who has a considerable criminal history and, at this present time, is serving a lengthy jail term for a particularly brutal murder on the Gold Coast. His statement and accusations against my family members were proven in court to be false on numerous occasions. We now know that the police officer in charge of this case had a history of "conspiring with witnesses to give false evidence against others."

Several other officers who were heavily involved in our case were later demoted and at least one has now left the force.

The only people in the district who have an accurate understanding of the false charges endured by my family members are the twelve good citizens of Kingaroy who sat on the jury and returned a "Not Guilty" verdict in very quick time. The Judge instructed the jury that it would be highly dangerous to convict on the word of such a man as the prosecutions witness.

The ordeal my whole family suffered as a result of a dishonest and bungled police investigation was horrendous, both emotionally and financially. Never the less, our family was determined to see justice prevail and with the help of the court system, truth has emerged.

I trust that in this upcoming by-election the voters of Division 6, who may have been affected by inaccurate information during the 2012 election, will consider the above facts when choosing their representative on Council.

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