

## Sarah Partosh

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**From:** Heidi Jones  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 July 2011 1:07 PM  
**To:** 'Edmund.Burke@ministerial.qld.gov.au'  
**Subject:** FW: Request for interview with chief scientist Dr Garrett - FYI

Good morning Eddie

I began as the full-time comms person in the Office of the Queensland Chief Scientist a fortnight ago.

FYI, I've received the media enquiry below this morning. Geoff is about to have a conversation with Tony about his questions. I don't expect the conversation will deviate from the questions outlined below, but will advise if they do. I'll also forward you a copy of any stories this conversation may generate.

Kind regards  
Heidi

**Heidi Jones**

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**From:** Tony Moore [<mailto:tony.moore@brisbanetimes.com.au>]  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 July 2011 11:11 AM  
**To:** Heidi Jones  
**Subject:** Request for interview with chief scientist Dr Garrett

Good morning Heidi.

There was interesting debate over the weekend where the LNP leader Campbell Newman – in broad terms – said he wanted to foreground the role of the chief scientist in evaluating policy formulation.

Here is one story about that issue. Here Campbell Newman highlighted the role of the Chief Scientist.

<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/newman-promises-public-service-shakeup-20110717-1hjgc.html>

Quite obviously I sought balance from the Queensland Government and this story came as a result.

<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/environment/political-climate-heats-up-as-newman-wages-war-on-derm-20110718-1hkk2.html>

I appreciate you cannot comment on politics. I would not ask you to do that.

However, as a former CEO of CSIRO I am fascinated to find out;

- If you believe science is being 'ignored' or 'downgraded' in State Govt decision-making process?
- What is your role now and do you see it any different in the scenario that Campbell Newman is describing in the stories above?
- What is your view on putting a price on carbon emissions.

Thank you.  
Tony Moore

(07) 3031 6273.

Or reply by email, if you prefer.

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RTI RELEASE

## Sarah Partosh

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**From:** Heidi Jones  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 July 2011 3:15 PM  
**To:** 'Edmund.Burke@ministerial.qld.gov.au'  
**Cc:** Melanie Gray; Bronwyn Fardon  
**Subject:** Outcome of Geoff Garrett's interview with Brisbane Times re: science in Queensland

Hi Eddie

Geoff has spoken to Tony. The conversation went well. Key points Geoff made to Tony are outlined below.

1. If you believe science is being 'ignored' or 'downgraded' in State Govt decision-making process?
  - I have seen no evidence that science or scientists' views are being ignored by either side of politics in Queensland
  - I've been encouraged by the support shown to science by both sides of government and the bipartisan approach to science in Queensland
  - I look forward to meeting with Campbell Newman in the near future
  - The progress we've made in Queensland over the last decade about the importance of science is remarkable
  - There seems to be evidence of a real passion for politics from both sides of Queensland government
  - I'm a huge fan of what's been achieved under the Smart State initiatives

Follow-up question re: Campbell Newman's comments

- I will have to meet with Campbell Newman
- I think it's great he believes in science

2. What is your role now and do you see it any different in the scenario that Campbell Newman is describing in the stories above?

On Geoff's role:

- I'm involved strategically as a figurehead
- I work mostly with senior bureaucrats
- One of my focuses is on maintaining and building on the momentum that's been achieved – e.g. partnership with Chinese Academy of Science
- I am an evangelist and advocate for science and passionate about making sure science gets converted into action

Follow-up question on the type of advice Geoff gives:

- Report for the floods commission
- Hendra Virus Taskforce
- Smart Futures Funding
- Next phase of the Smart State Strategy

3. What is your view on putting a price on carbon emissions?

- I think it's a worthwhile initiative long-term
- I think science informs the political debate
- I'm not a climate change expert or economist
- I'm strongly supportive of research
- I believe there is strong evidence of global warming and we need to reduce carbon emissions
- The Federal Chief Scientist and I are in agreement about this
- I believe we do need to put a price on carbon to change behaviour
- The details of what price and how to implement this are for politicians to work out

Please let me know if you require any further information.

Kind regards  
Heidi

**Heidi Jones**

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