

8 Oct 2011

Mr B. McIver
President
Liberal National Party
PO Box 940
Spring Hill QLD 4004

Fax: 07 3844 0388

Dear Bruce,

I have spent considerable time reflecting on your decision to approve the candidacy of Mr Gavin King as the LNP Candidate for Cairns. As I was the LNP Candidate for Cairns in the 2009 State Election, as well as the recent LNP State Party Secretary, I am sure you appreciate how close this matter is to my heart.

It is utterly unacceptable to endorse a man who has so publicly aired personal views which are in direct conflict with LNP values. These personal views of Mr King are now bringing the LNP into disrepute and tarnish the LNP as a viable alternate government. In particular, I note the reports that Mr King refuses to retract his assertions that women must take some responsibility for being raped. The notion that Mr King can argue 'context' is outrageous.

I cannot abide the endorsement of Mr King. His misogynistic women hating views and racist platform are untenable, and I cannot remain the member of an organisation that endorses a man who spruiks such vile.

There is no reasonable argument to be made that the LNP was not aware of Mr King's beliefs. He has been airing them for many years. I cannot comprehend how any Candidate Review Committee could turn a blind eye to his public views. If the LNP does not have a suitable candidate for Cairns, so be it. It is unacceptable to fill a void with bigotry. Better to not contest the seat than to throw away the Party's values.

In light of the LNP's decision to endorse Mr King's candidacy, I hereby submit my resignation from the LNP effective immediately.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joel Harrop', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Joel Harrop