



Government
of South Australia

The Hon Stephan Knoll MP
Member for Schubert

FOI Ref: SKNOLL176344

Hon Kyam Maher MLC
Member of the Legislative Council
Parliament house
North Terrace
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Mr Maher

I refer to your application to the Office of the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (the Act) which was received 17 July 2019.

You have requested access to:

“Copies of any and all documents (including but not limited to hard copy or electronic briefings, minutes, reports, text messages, emails, letters meeting agendas, diary entries and any other correspondence) between the Minister and/or Minister’s Office staff and Mr James Stevens and/or the Liberal for Sturt campaign from 1 January 2019 to 18 May 2019.”

An email was provided to your Office on 26 July 2019 advising they my Office had interpreted the scope to only include James Stevens as the Liberal Candidate for Sturt and not in his role of Chief of Staff to the Premier.

A search of documents held by the Office of the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning was undertaken. I wish to advise that one document has been identified within the scope of your request.

Attached is an explanation of the provisions of the Act which details your rights to review and appeal this determination, and the process to be followed.

In accordance with Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, if you are given access to documents as a result of this FOI application, details of your application, and the documents to which access is given, will be published in the agency’s disclosure log within 90 days from the date of this determination. Any private information will be removed. A copy of PC045 can be found at <http://dpc.sa.gov.au/what-we-do/services-for-government/premier-and-cabinet-circulars>. If you have any objection to this publication, please contact us within 30 days of receiving this determination.

Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government
Minister for Planning

Roma Mitchell House Adelaide SA 5000 | GPO Box 1533 Adelaide SA 5001 DX 171
Tel 08 7109 8430 | Email ministerknoll@sa.gov.au



If you have any questions in relation to the matter, please contact Kimberly Davis, Freedom of Information Officer on telephone (08) 7109 7133 or via email at kimberly.davis@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Jenna Phillips-Wilkinson

Accredited FOI Officer

Office of the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government

Minister for Planning

29 / 8 / 2019

Encl Schedule of documents

Your rights to review and appeal this determination

SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS – FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPLICATION NUMBER – SKNOLL176344

Description	Date	Release Determination	Schedule Clause
Email titled Chief of Staff- Resignation	Sunday 3 March 2019 at 10.50am	Full Release	

Taylor, Sarah (DPTI)

From: Stevens, James (DPC)
Sent: Sunday, 3 March 2019 10:50 AM
To: Carney, Jodeen (AGD); De Gennaro, Gino (DTF); Bauer, Cheryl (Education); Kompo-Harms, Scott (DTTI); Hancock, Janette (DHS); Goddard, Garry (DIS); Murphy, James (Health); Kelly, Dominic (DEM); Pratt, Penny (DCP); Price, Simon (PIRSA); Mallinson, Larissa (AGD); Bailey, Cullen (DEW); Taylor, Sarah (DPTI)
Cc: Morcombe, Courtney (DPC); May, Alexandra (DPC)
Subject: Chief of Staff - Resignation
Attachments: Resignation Letter.jpg

For Official Use Only

Dear Chiefs of Staff,

I write to inform you that this morning I have tendered my resignation (attached) to the Premier as his Chief of Staff, effective immediately.

Given yesterday's announcement by Christopher Pyne that he will not contest the next federal election, and the decision of the State Executive to open nominations for preselection, I have made the decision to contest. It would be negligent of me and against the best interests of the government for me to continue in my current role having now made that decision. This role must always be held by a person exclusively focussed on serving the Premier and the Cabinet, and I believe that has been my conduct throughout my time in this role.

The Premier has asked me to inform you that he has appointed Courtney Morcombe as my replacement as Chief of Staff. She will do an unbelievable job and I feel enormously proud and relieved to be handing over my responsibilities to someone so capable.

I have cherished my time as part of this team since the beginning of 2013. Our election victory last year will remain the highlight of my political involvement to date. It was undoubtedly one of the great victories in Liberal Party history, given the phenomenal and unique dynamic we faced to not only defeat an entrenched, entitled government, but with the added complexity of a completely bizarre additional political force that left every flank under attack and no seat as an assured outcome.

I have served with great pride in this government. I am sad to be leaving it. I wish you all the greatest of success in what will clearly be a long and exciting Liberal Party reign, delivering great reforms and outcomes for the people of South Australia.

Vale.

James

James Stevens
Chief of Staff
Premier of South Australia



Office of the Premier
of South Australia

3rd March 2019
Hon Steven Marshall MP
Premier of South Australia
State Administration Centre
200 Victoria Square
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Premier,

I write, with a heavy heart, to tender my resignation as your Chief of Staff, effective immediately. It has been my greatest pleasure to serve in this role through the entirety of your leadership of the South Australian Liberal party, more than six years now. The undoubted highlight was of course last year's historic election victory. I will always cherish the role I had the privilege to play in that campaign.

Given yesterday's announcement by Christopher Pyne that he will not contest the next federal election, and the decision of the State Executive to open nominations for preselection, I have made the decision to contest. It would be negligent of me and against the best interests of your government to play an appropriate role in the coming months, I look forward to contributing to the interests of your government in 2022.

I remain absolutely dedicated to the interests of the Marshall Liberal Government. I could not always be held by a person exclusively focused on serving you, and I believe that has been my conduct throughout my time with you.

I remain not continuing to play an appropriate role in the coming months, I look forward to contributing to the interests of your government in 2022.

I remain absolutely dedicated to the interests of the Marshall Liberal Government. I could not always be held by a person exclusively focused on serving you, and I believe that has been my conduct throughout my time with you.

I remain not continuing to play an appropriate role in the coming months, I look forward to contributing to the interests of your government in 2022.

Kind regards,
James Stevens
Chief of Staff
Premier of South Australia

sa.gov.au
GPO Box 2343 Adelaide SA 5001