



SENATOR THE HON GEORGE BRANDIS, SC

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Senate
Shadow Attorney-General
Shadow Minister for the Arts

URGENT

16 May 2013

Commissioner Tony Negus APM
Australian Federal Police
GPO Box 401
CANBERRA CITY, ACT, 2601.

By email: Tony.Negus@afp.gov.au

Dear Commissioner

I refer to a report by Simon Benson on page one of today's *Daily Telegraph* newspaper, concerning Mr Craig Thomson MP. In the report, Mr Benson refers to an "exclusive interview" with Mr Thomson, during the course of which Mr Thomson is reported to have stated that he:

"rejected an offer from the NSW Labor Party to allow him to be beaten in a Labor preselection contest - a move which would have qualified him for the politician's equivalent of a six-month redundancy worth up to \$100,000."

If Mr Thomson's statement is correct, then a person or persons within the NSW Branch of the Australian Labor Party have evidently sought to induce Mr Thomson to agree to an arrangement whereby he would undergo a sham preselection process for the purpose of fraudulently increasing his severance entitlements in the event that he ceased to be a Member of Parliament. In proposing and seeking to effect such a sham arrangement, it would appear that those persons:

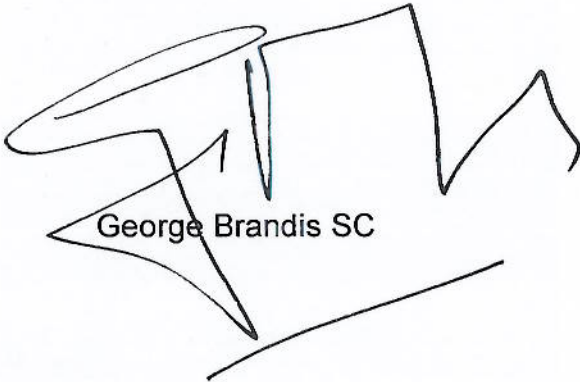
1. Conspired or attempted to conspire with the intention of causing a loss to the Commonwealth, contrary to section 135.4 of the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth); and
2. Offered to confer a benefit with the intention of influencing the candidature of Mr Thomson, contrary to section 326(2) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (Cth).

I point out that these are not allegations made by a third party; they are allegations made by Mr Thomson himself, on the basis of what he claims to be his own knowledge of the matter.

In these circumstances, it seems appropriate that a full investigation should be made by the Australian Federal Police into whether the conduct alleged by Mr Thomson constituted either of the crimes to which I have referred.

I therefore request that the Australian Federal Police investigate this matter. Given the public importance of the matter, I request that that investigation be undertaken as a matter of urgency.

Yours faithfully



George Brandis SC