

# WINEVVS

## Queensland MP Rob Pyne receives dirt-digging email offer meant for former MP Gavin King

By Elaine Ford and staff

Updated Fri 10 Apr 2015, 1:57pm

**Cairns MP Rob Pyne has laughed off an email he received from a man offering to investigate his past convictions, which was actually meant for former Queensland LNP MP Gavin King.**

A man, identified only as Karl, mistakenly sent the email to Mr Pyne via the Cairns electorate office email address on Wednesday.



PHOTO: Mr Pyne said the email "did not worry him too much". (Sourced: Queensland Labor)

"Dear Gavin,  
I've tried to find out more about Rob Pyne's diving incident in 1991. But too many files have become updated in January 2015 ... Could you please help me?"

Mr Pyne said the email "did not worry him too much".

"It's quite interesting [that] there seems to be an unhealthy interest in MPs' past lives," he said.

"I've had ... a gentleman emailing me inquiring about a former drink driving conviction.

"Obviously he thought he was emailing the former member, Mr King, saying he was looking into Mr Pyne and his former convictions."

Mr Pyne said he sent an email reply to the man.

Dear Karl,  
Thank you for emailing my office. If you require any information regarding my accident or even drink driving offences, please have the integrity to contact me directly.  
Warmest regards, Rob

Mr Pyne said he was "pretty thick-skinned".

"I've lived in Cairns all my life - there's nothing about me people up here don't know, so I'm not too worried about it," he said.

"I feel I'm a relatively uncontroversial character, but obviously in the wake of this, what I can only describe as this Billy Gordon media circus, I think people have gone a bit hysterical for MPs' pasts."

Mr Pyne said Queenslanders were more concerned about what was happening in the state.

"People in Queensland have elected a government - let's get on with focusing on the issues that matter to ordinary Queenslanders and leave these silly personal squabbles in history where they belong," he said.

"To go back a quarter of a century to find dirt to stir up, I think is distasteful and I don't think ordinary Queenslanders like it.

"I think we've just got to treat it as more of a distraction and remember what the main issues are for Queenslanders."

To go back a quarter of a century to find dirt to stir up I think is distasteful and I don't think ordinary Queenslanders like it.

Cairns Labor MP Rob Pyne

## Intended email recipient finds incident 'hilarious'

Mr King said he did not know about the email, but said he thought the incident was "hilarious".

"No-one in the general public would have my email address, not now," Mr King said.

"I think there's a lot of interest around the integrity of MPs and I think constituents certainly have a right to know who their MPs are and what they have and haven't done in the past, but clearly that's not the right way to go about it.

"The election was over two months ago, so perhaps the person wasn't quite keeping up with the news."

However, Mr King said the incident highlighted his concern about who was governing Queensland while distractions were playing out.

"While all of these scandals and sagas and MPs commenting about silly emails [are going on], no-one's actually governing the state," he said.

"It's quite sad looking at it from the sidelines - I don't know the last time anyone did any governing in Queensland."

However, Police Queensland Minister Jo-Ann Miller said there were some reports of former MPs focussing on dirt digging.

"We have a situation at the moment in Queensland whereby there are a number of MPs who lost their seats at the last election who I understand are using their severance pay to dig up information in relation to other MPs," she said.

"People who run for office for the state of Queensland to be MPs, they're generally trying to run for the right reasons.

"I think the situation that I read about this morning was a particularly grubby act and I think that people should settle down - they should talk to the MP concerned if they've heard anything and simply try to settle it at that level.

"If it can't be done at that level, then they can talk to the parties."

While all of these scandals and sagas and MPs commenting about silly emails [are going on], no-one's actually governing the state.

Gavin King, former LNP Member for Cairns

**Topics:** alp, state-parliament, cairns-4870