



Labor MP Don Brown to pay \$50k to LNP candidate after defamatory remarks

Chief government whip Don Brown will pay \$50,000 in damages for defamatory comments made towards a former LNP candidate.

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State Member for Capalaba Don Brown. Picture: Richard Walker

Steven Miles has backed in under-fire chief government whip Don Brown after he was ordered to pay \$50,000 in damages to a former political candidate over defamatory comments.

Mr Brown - who is paid more than \$90,000 extra on top of his \$170,000 MP salary to wrangle the state's MPs on the 40 parliamentary sitting days - had been due to face trial next week after being sued by former LNP candidate Bev Walters.

Ms Walters' statement of claim had said imputations made against her by Mr Brown included that she was money hungry, and that she was pushing for the lifting of border restrictions for her own personal gain.

Acting Premier Miles, when asked on Thursday whether there would be further consequences for the Capalaba MP, said “it sounds to me like that’s a pretty significant consequence”.

“I understood that Don has done his best to settle that matter, that he acknowledged that he said the wrong thing, and the legal process has worked as it should be,” he said.

“He’s the whip, and he retains the confidence of the caucus - the whip is elected by the caucus.

“I’m sure he will be more careful about what he says in the future.”

Ms Walters said “an apology from Mr Brown formed a part of the agreement, and such apology will be published by Mr Brown on his Don Brown MP Facebook page”.

“I look forward to my reputation being restored through the publication of Mr Brown’s apology,” she said.

Mr Brown caused a furore earlier this year when he used his political Facebook page to call [youth crime a “media beat-up”](#).

He also caused a stir when he posted a message supporting the “Yes” vote for the upcoming referendum, writing: “Let’s prove Australia wrong. Queenslanders aren’t a bunch of rednecks like Dutton and the LNP. VOTE YES”.

At the time, Mr Miles chastised Mr Brown for his comments on youth crime – made just a few days after the state government rushed through amendments to keep children in watch houses due to the spiralling crisis - saying his comments were “disappointing” and “stupid”.