

## **Open letter/email to: Senator Natasha Stott Despoja**

by Cleaves Editorial Team - Cleaves Independent Publishing *Tuesday, May 13 2008, 12:05am*  
editorial / social/political / commentary

Senator Natasha Stott Despoja has served in the Australian Senate for many years and has always been a voice for the underdog and a vigorous supporter of many unpopular but nevertheless important causes. She will soon be retiring from the Parliament to pursue her role as mother and whatever else takes her fancy.

We wish her all the best and thank her for the many years of selfless work and support she has given to the Australian community. We are especially grateful for her support for the many 'unpopular' issues, like lobbying for the release of David Hicks etc. She has assisted many people and has been a tireless proponent of many causes that mainstream politicians view as career 'impediments.'

She is a woman of integrity and gracious disposition, characteristics rare in Australian parliamentarians. We are extremely sorry to see her go but understand her need for change; she has earned our respect and the respect of the Australian community. We sincerely hope that someone is able to fill the space she leaves in the Australian Senate - we are far from impressed with the current crop of dunderheads and ineffective verbose wafflers!



***snowing in Japan***

Open letter/email to: Senator Natasha Stott Despoja

13 May, 2008

Dear Senator,

Congratulations on the birth of your second child and we extend all best wishes to you and your family for the future.

We note that you are fast approaching the end of your tenure in the Senate and we would appreciate, if you are able and disposed, to accommodate our request and check whether or not the

site <http://cleaves.zapto.org/> has been filtered from the parliamentary computer network.

Today's Public Senate broadcast included an address by the Chair relating to content filtering of the parliamentary computer network. We are astounded to learn of this hideous practice, which smacks of Orwellian Big Brother tactics.

It seems that someone/group/cabal has seen fit to impose restrictions on the free flow of information to Parliamentarians! On what legal or constitutional basis has this outrageous practice been allowed to proceed?

OUR democratically elected parliamentary representatives must be given FREE ACCESS to ALL information at ALL TIMES if we are to have a healthy, robust democracy -- this is self-evident!

We also note the attempts of the new Labor government to filter Public content at backbone or ISP level, which would constitute the first stage of an autocratic, totalitarian society!

Notwithstanding the above draconian Labor policies and the recent Stalinist, Gillard proposal that would allow corporate bosses access to the private emails of their employees, assaults of this nature extending into parliament subverts the entire democratic process and all that it holds of value, as we're sure you can appreciate.

We need not continue, as we're sure you are more familiar with the situation than most.

If you are able to confirm or otherwise inform us of the current status of the 'Cleaves' site on the parliamentary computer network, it would be greatly appreciated.

All best wishes for the future and warmest regards from everyone at,  
Cleaves Independent Open Publishing Newswire.

Lindsay  
Acting Chief Editor

PS Please note your response would not be published without your prior approval.

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Cleaves Alternative News. <http://cleaves.lingama.net/news/story-1053.html>