

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
Subject: Inquiry into the Strategic Review of the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman
Date: Tuesday, 24 April 2018 2:49:02 PM
Attachments: [Submission to the Inquiry into the Strategic Review of the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman.pdf](#)
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Dear Committee Secretary

My apologies for the lateness of this submission, but I trust it will be of some assistance. Please feel free to contact me if you want to clarify anything or if you want assistance in accessing any of the references cited.

Kind regards

Peter

Peter Wilkins

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Submission to the Inquiry into the Strategic Review of the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman

The report into the Strategic Review is a valuable resource and the 72 recommendations provide guidance to the Parliament, the Ombudsman and the wider community on changes that could help to improve the value of the Ombudsman function in Queensland.

As I am not sufficiently familiar with the Queensland context I will restrict my observations in this submission to one aspect of the process and a general observation about collaboration between integrity agencies.

1. The role of periodic statutory reviews

I have reviewed the role of periodic statutory reviews of Auditors General (see the reference list below) and the observations arising from this work might assist the Committee in considering the benefits of Strategic Reviews in the Queensland context.

From my initial review of the Strategic Review report I didn't see any cross-referencing to the process or findings of the most recent Strategic Reviews of the Queensland Audit Office and think there may be some benefit to the Queensland Parliament (and other Parliaments) for some comparative analysis of these two parallel streams of review, particularly as the Queensland Ombudsman is the only Australian Ombudsman to be subject to periodic statutory reviews.

2. Collaboration between integrity agencies

The Strategic Review report makes insightful comments on aspects of collaboration with other integrity agencies and it might assist the Committee to consider these aspects of the report in the broader context of this collaboration in different jurisdictions (see the reference list below). While collaboration is sometimes seen as axiomatically good, the benefits should be considered alongside the risks involved and concerns that have been raised about certain practices.

List of my relevant publications

2018 (in preparation). Watching the Watchdogs: Periodic statutory reviews of Auditors General. Chapter in R. Pilcher and D. Gilchrist (Eds.) *'Public Sector Accounting, Accountability and Governance: Globalising the Experiences of Australia and New Zealand'*. Abingdon, Routledge.

2017 Parliaments and their watchdogs: Evaluating the role of periodic statutory reviews of Auditors General. *Australasian Parliamentary Review*. Spring/Summer 2017, 32.2.

2017 with J. Phillimore and D. Gilchrist. Benefits and risks of collaboration between watchdogs: The Western Australian Experience. *Policy Studies*. 38(4) 291-310.

2017 with J. Phillimore and D. Gilchrist. Collaboration by the public sector: findings by watchdogs in Australia and New Zealand. *Public Money and Management*. 37(3) 217-224.

2016 with J. Phillimore and D. Gilchrist. Public Sector Collaboration: Are We Doing It Well and Could We Do It Better? *Australian Journal of Public Administration*. 75(3) 318-330.

2015 with J. Phillimore and D. Gilchrist. ANZSOG case study: Falling between the cracks: collaboration to clean up asbestos in Queensland 2015-172.1 and Teaching Notes 2015-172.2, ANZSOG, Melbourne. <https://www.anzsog.edu.au/resource-library/case-library/falling-between-the-cracks-collaboration-to-clean-up-asbestos-in-queensland-2015-172-1>

2015 Watchdogs as satellites of Parliament. *Australian Journal of Public Administration*. 75(1) 8-27.

2015 with J. Phillimore and D. Gilchrist. *Working together: Evidence on collaboration from the reports of independent watchdogs*. ANZSOG research monograph, ANZSOG, Melbourne. <https://www.anzsog.edu.au/resource-library/research/working-together-evidence-on-collaboration-from-the-reports-of-independent-watchdogs>

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