

## **Submission to the Crime and Corruption Committee**

**Re: investigation into the issues raised by the Local Government Association of Queensland in its correspondence to the committee, dated 5 May 2021**

21/07/2021

Danielle Hall

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit regarding the above investigation. I refer to the below categories as listed on the inquiry of the Crime and Corruption Commission's (CCC's) investigation of former councillors of Logan City Council which led to the former councillors:

1. *Being charged with fraud (which charges have now been discontinued); the decision and considerations of the CCC to charge these former councillors*
2. *The evidence and submissions and other relevant documentation provided to the DPP by the CCC in support of these charges*
3. *The communications, whether oral or in writing from the DPP to the CCC with respect to those charges*
4. *The CCC's involvement in related civil matters including those which were brought before the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission and Queensland Industrial Court, including the CCC's interaction with former councillors, the former CEO of Logan City Council and any other relevant officers of Logan City Council at relevant times*
5. *The CCC's use of coercive powers and matters relating to the dissemination of information obtained under coercion to parties in non-criminal proceedings.*
6. *The process by which the CCC considers and determines whether to refer matters to the DPP;*
7. *The CCC's interaction with the DPP more broadly, including existing information sharing and other processes that facilitate interaction, and*
8. *Whether the current processes and guidelines are appropriate, whether current provisions enabling the CC to report on an investigation to entities under section 49 of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 is appropriate and sufficient*
9. *The CCC's role in charging persons with an offense arising from its investigations and*
10. *Any other related matters*

It was disappointing to see that the CCC was able to charge 7 former councillors [REDACTED] from information obtained by whistle-blowers. It was unjust that the CCC did not also investigate the "whistle-blowers" when they investigated those charged, and that this led to the sacking of [REDACTED] people that were lawfully elected by the people.

Furthermore, it is a serious miscarriage of justice that these charges were unable to be proven, resulting in no action coming to the "whistle-blowers". The actions of the CCC placed [REDACTED] people out of a job that they were elected by the people to do, while the people responsible for instigating these unlawful charges were able to be re-elected comfortably into positions, and indeed even moved into higher positions within the government. While the councillors who had charges laid would have been able to re-run for council, it is unlikely with the charges laid the public would have voted for them, and if they had gotten in they would have been immediately stood down pending the investigation.

I also refer to the CCC's use of coercion, in that a letter was sent to at least one of the former councillors advising that if they did not vote a certain way, that there would be repercussions and charges laid. This is a serious breach, in that the people voted these councillors in with the belief that they would vote in the way that would benefit the public. The act of the CCC sending a letter advising a vote had to go a certain way is not only detrimental to the democratic process of the people, but also clouds the separation of powers, and makes future councillors wary of doing what they are elected to do, for fear of charges, their reputation being destroyed and losing their job. This directly affects all future councillors, in that some may now be too scared to do their job properly without fear of repercussion from a government agency who rightfully, should have no say in how local elected councillors vote for their constituents.

The repercussions of these baseless charges destroyed the good name of many people. Furthermore, the CCC ensured that those charged were unable to communicate with each other as terms of bail conditions. As well as destroying their name in the community, which some worked over 20 years to achieve, they were also unable to talk to their closest confidants. The suppression order on the dismissal had long lasting implications for all involved. It was horrifying that the CCC was able to report in every newspaper, however the councillors involved were legally advised not able to say anything to defend themselves. The mental health outcomes of what the CCC have done are serious and long lasting. Not only did they face persecution from the public, but many lost friends during this, due to the uncertainty of being associated with "criminals". [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The CCC have still not taken ownership for the mental health repercussions that these former councillors faced and continue to advise that they acted within due process.

It begs belief that the CCC were able to lay charges that saw [REDACTED] people stood down, and then the sacking of the entire council. The length of time it took to dismiss these charges meant that these people were unable to run again for council and in most cases, had to find jobs in other career avenues to make ends meet. For someone who has been elected for more than 20 years, changing careers can be extremely challenging, yet the CCC continue to maintain that they are blameless, even though they have effectively destroyed the lives of [REDACTED] people. It is ridiculous that they took information from whistle blowers that were themselves, not investigated.

Finally, it has been reported that the head of the CCC upon being stood down will receive a full pension. This is seriously unjust in that he instigated unfounded charges that brought the end to several careers, yet he can retire with full pay. In this situation, the CCC has far exceeded what was appropriate intervention in this case, their use of coercion and how their information was obtained. The CCC wielded their power in ways that were detrimental to the lives of [REDACTED] people and need to be held accountable for their mistakes.

I appreciate the enquiry and hope for a positive outcome. I can be reached for further comment on the details listed on page 1.

Yours,  
Danielle Hall