



Submission 005
Tablelands Regional Council

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10 July 2015

File Ref: GVT-CMC
Your Ref: 11.1.4

Mr Peter Russo MP
Acting Chair
Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

RECEIVED

15 JUL 2015

PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND
CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

Dear Sir

SUBMISSION - REVIEW OF THE CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMISSION

Thank you for your correspondence dated 10 June 2015 inviting Council to make a submission regarding the review of the functions of the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC).

Tablelands Regional Council endorses the following two items that have also been proposed by the Local Government Managers Australia (Queensland):

- Complaints of official misconduct against local government CEOs should be dealt with by the CCC; and
- The responsibility for investigation of corruption complaints against Councillors to be handled by CEOs (where delegated by the CCC) should be removed and instead assigned to the CCC or the CEO of the Department with the local government portfolio.

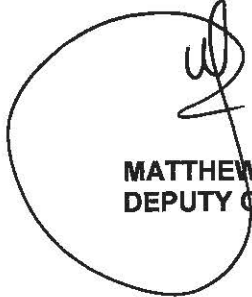
We would like to take this opportunity to suggest improvements to the functioning of the CCC.

- In our experience, the former Crime and Misconduct Commission was significantly proactive in supporting this organisation to develop its capacity to prevent, detect and respond to misconduct and corruption. We appreciated the way the CMC actively followed up on complaints that had been returned to Council for investigation. It not only followed up about the progress and results of the investigation, it also encouraged us to implement improvements to prevent misconduct and corruption. This active follow up and review gave the organisation more incentive to deal with difficult issues and more power to do so because the CMC acted as a positive champion for change.
- We believe that a partnership approach between Council and the CCC is important for rural communities and we would like to be able to access the CCC for advice and coaching through internal investigations, as we do not necessarily have the resources and experience of larger urban agencies.

- The previous inclusion of "official misconduct" as an important function of the CMC meant that its remit was broader than the current corruption focus. In our experience, actively managing misconduct and official misconduct through formal processes is important for prevention and education. It meant that the attitudinal elements of fraud were more likely to be captured in their infancy, before sub-standard practices could become embedded in the organisational culture. We request that you consider restoring a preventative / early detection role to the CCC to help organisations cultivate an appreciation for ethical behaviour.
- The requirement for people to make a complaint by way of Statutory Declaration appears to provide limited value and at the same time may discourage people from making genuine complaints. Whilst we appreciate this might reduce vexatious complaints, early detection benefits greatly from tip-offs which are more likely if the process to make a complaint is easy.

Please do not hesitate to contact the author on the above telephone number should you wish to discuss any aspect of this matter.

Yours faithfully



MATTHEW HYDE
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER