



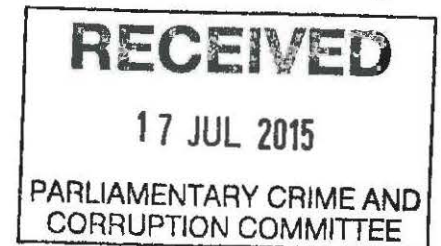
Department of Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning

Our ref: OUT15/5306

Your ref: 11.1.4

15 JUL 2015

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



Dear Mr Russo

Thank you for your letter of 11 June 2015 inviting submissions to assist the Committee in its review of the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC).

I can advise that the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DILGP) works cooperatively with the CCC and there is a positive and constructive relationship between the Department's liaison officers and the CCC staff that they interact with. DILGP has a CCC liaison officer for matters involving its employees and a CCC liaison officer for matters involving councillor and local government matters.

The officer assigned to liaison duties regarding matters involving departmental employees is an employee of the Department of State Development (DSD) as that Department provides some corporate services to DILGP under the terms of a Service Level Agreement.

The Department's liaison officer for employee matters advises that there has been some diminishing of the role and presence of the CCC in the sector in recent years resulting from changes to the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* (the Act) which became effective in July 2014. These changes, including the definition of "corrupt conduct" (Section 15) and the increased threshold for reporting by public officials of matters (Section 38), particularly the "reasonable suspicion" test, have resulted in fewer matters involving corrupt conduct by employees being reported to the CCC by this Department. Consequently the Department has been required to manage matters involving allegations about employee misconduct more independently.

In relation to the management of complaints about the conduct of local government councillors, the Department continues to have regular, constructive liaison with the CCC. As a result of changes to the Act, the number of matters of alleged corrupt conduct by councillors referred to the Department to deal with has increased slightly. At officer level, the CCC is consultative on matters referred and provides valuable assistance to the Department in conducting its investigations.

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The CCC's withdrawal from regular face to face meetings with the Department's liaison officer dealing with employee matters has been disappointing, as such regular personal contact assisted in maintaining strong relationships, the sharing of information and intelligence and expediting progress in matters of alleged corrupt conduct involving departmental employees.

It is felt that the removal of the research and prevention functions from the CCC has been detrimental to the leadership, championing and maintenance of fraud and corruption prevention expertise in the sector. The Department was required to take action to ensure the CCC's Managing Conflict of Interest resources were retained on a publicly accessible website after such resources were initially removed from the CCC website in 2012.

If you require further information, I encourage you to contact Mr Jim Meyers, Manager Ethics, Integrity and Risk, DSD on 07 3452 6952 or by email at jim.meyers@dsd.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Johnston
Acting Director-General