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

By email – pccc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir

Review of the Crime & Corruption Commission

I refer to your letters dated 11 June 2015 to me and, separately, to Queensland Rail's Chairman Mr Michael Klug inviting submissions from Queensland Rail to assist the Parliamentary Crime & Corruption Committee to conduct its three year review of the Crime & Corruption Commission (CCC) pursuant to section 292(f) of the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*.

Thank you for providing Queensland Rail with the opportunity to make a submission in relation to your review of the CCC.

Queensland Rail holds the CCC in very high regard and recognizes the important role it plays in investigating corrupt conduct in the public sector and promoting public confidence in the integrity of public administration in this State. In all of the dealings between Queensland Rail and representatives of the CCC, our personnel have found the CCC's representatives to be professional, approachable and responsive in dealing with what are often quite difficult and sensitive matters.

In relation to the scope of your review, there are three aspects of the CCC's role that Queensland Rail wishes to comment on.

Focus on serious corrupt conduct

Since 1 July 2014, the CCC's mandate has been focussed on serious corrupt conduct (as defined in the *Crime and Corruption Act*). This represented a significant shift from the broader 'official misconduct' standard that applied prior to 1 July 2014.

While Queensland Rail supports the move to focus the CCC's oversight on corrupt conduct (and the current definition of what constitutes corrupt conduct), having CCC focus only on 'serious' corrupt conduct diminishes the benefit of CCC oversight of less serious corrupt conduct matters. Queensland Rail would support the CCC having a greater role in corrupt conduct matters other than 'serious corrupt conduct' matters.

Regardless of whether any change is made in this regard, Queensland Rail supports a clear definition of what conduct is referable to the CCC, rather than leaving the determination of that issue to interpretation.



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Reporting Matters

With the change to the legislation on 1 July 2014, Queensland Rail is no longer required to report minor matters of misconduct on the basis such matters are better handled by Queensland Rail managers via internal processes. Queensland Rail welcomes this position. For those matters that satisfy (or potentially satisfy) the definition of corrupt conduct and are therefore referred to the CCC, the matters are often referred back to Queensland Rail on a 'no response required' basis as they do not constitute corrupt conduct of sufficient seriousness to warrant further CCC oversight. If the CCC's focus is to remain on the more serious cases of corrupt conduct, it may be that more efficient reporting protocols could be put in place for less significant corrupt conduct matters - for example, information could be provided to the CCC in the form of statistics at the end of each quarter rather than on a case-by-case basis.

Education Role

Queensland Rail believes the CCC has an important role to play in providing ongoing education and information to public sector agencies in relation to public sector ethics matters.

Some of the documentation and guidelines produced by the Commission's predecessors (CJC and CMC) have proven to be informative and helpful in assisting Queensland Rail to educate its workforce about integrity-related matters. It would also be useful for the CCC to provide face-to-face education sessions from time to time to help practitioners, managers and other key stakeholders to improve awareness and knowledge in relation to the prevention and detection of fraud, corruption and serious misconduct matters.

Closing

Queensland Rail values its strong working relationship with the CCC and looks forward to continuing to work with the CCC in a transparent and collaborative manner.

Again, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours sincerely



Helen Gluer
Chief Executive Officer

28 July 2015