Tuesday, the 9th of June, 2020 CE.

re the Queensland Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee's inquiry to provide a "Review of the Activities of the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC)" and seemingly related matters.

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PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

To the Hon. Members of the said Parliamentary Committee:

Whilst, the contents herein*, are not intended (by this very submitter) to be held in confidence†, and, of course, only with all due respect, the author (i.e. said submitter) herein, would like to, take the opportunity, to respond to, the Committee's call, for public submissions, herein, for reasons, that may indeed, not all, necessarily become apparent from said contents, by way of, only appearing, anonymously, upon the very papers herein, if, naturally, the Committee may consider that sort of approach, to be acceptable, at all.

† and that is to say, may well be publicly published, in their entirety, as the Committee may see fit, or really, as this submitter would only suggest it, in the very public interest ought to be so published, along with all the other public submissions.

* i.e. including, those, which pertain to, my own apparent circumstances, or that is, myself personally, in any way.

In that sort of vein then, I (i.e. the said author/submitter herein) would seek to begin, with a bit of an overview, of sorts, as to, matters, that, in my very own humble view anyhow*, would necessarily appear, to be intrinsic to, a process, such as this one, herein, notwithstanding, the possibility, that some, might be inclined to argue, to the effect of that, with the one particular exception only - i.e. as regards the very reference to the CCC's current "role in overseeing the police service (or QPS)... (etc.)", such matters, might not, literally, seem to be, directly alluded to, in the Committee's Terms of Reference (TOR), for this inquiry, and be that as it may, what I'm alluding to, of course,

* and whilst, naturally, I do not purport to be any kind of formally qualified academic - or "expert" (if you like), much less, or more, a lawyer - i.e. as if just proffering "legal advice (as such)", but merely, express my own convictions, opinions, or beliefs, as an exercise of Free Speech etc..

would be, the historical, kind of context, that the very institution of the CCC (not to mention this PCCC to boot), might appear to sit in, and towards such ends then, I might start out, I suppose, by asking, the members of the Committee, to cast their minds back - or at least cast their eyes over the very parliamentary records of the day, to recall - or just appreciate anyhow - how it all began, with the reforms that - inter alia - arose, in the wake of the infamous Fitzgerald Inquiry, in the form of, the inaugural Queensland Criminal Justice Commission (CJC), and its, kind of complementary then, associated Parliamentary CJC - organ (or the PCJC), and, therein, what is more, as they say, lies the rub, of the first point, that I'd like to make - or

have the said Hon. Members just appreciate-herein, for, in my day, or, you know, back in, the very said day, it might seem, in hindsight, now, at any rate, and especially so, or I suppose then*, in light of the modern day role of the so-called "Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner", but anyhow, not necessarily on account of that alone, that, while, at the end of the day, it was always, up to the very said PCJC, ultimately, to accept-or not-recommendations for changes to be made to legislative policy itself etc., made by the CJC, the latter, within its very comprehensive written standing charter, naturally, operated-or executed its very own functions then-(apparently) far more independently, from any sort of-like-controlling

* for I don't, really propose, to have, any great appreciation, of what such might entail.

influences, by the former, than those, which might seem to be being exercised, over the CCC, by the said very PCCC (or that is this Committee) - at times anyhow, not to mention the so-called "responsible Minister"*, these days.

Now, I realise that, er, let's just say, you know, in an effort, maybe, to sort of, put some salve on the wounds, so to speak, but anyhow then, there's, like, been a lot of "water under the bridge", since way back then, in the early nineteen nineties that is, and, what with, then, all the kind of - party-politically motivated dabbling - to say the very least, which began, I might hasten to add, only in the wake of the ruling, in the Supreme Court of Queensland, that brought an end to the so-called Connolly/Ryan Inquiry, which had, unlawfully interfered then, with the Cursuters Inquiry - into the infamous Mun-

* and, leaving aside, for the time being, the so-called "Public Interest Monitor", which I'll endeavour to come back to address, in more detail, below, herein. ...

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dingburra by-election - that was ultimately then* never really settled, uh - oh, and, as I was just going to say then, or alluded to, the seemingly never ending "shifting of the goalposts", or Party-political shenanigans, in the very parliamentary process itself, which, firstly, heralded in the old Queensland Crime Commission (or QCC), with the kind of dual objectives - or so it might seem - then, of somewhat covering up the very débâcle of the said Connolly/Ryan manoeuvring, and finally wrestling away the CJC's particular function as the independent overseer of the QPS and its operations, and secondly, like, then, saw that QCC, replaced by, the so-called Crime and Misconduct Commission (or CMC) - with its very own similarly lesser charter - that to boot (as I seem to recall anyhow) was eventually to kind of water down even the very definitions as to what might constitute "official misconduct (or the like)",

* despite the so-called Shepardson Inquiry - having proposed to put paid to it all - some time later? ...

and thirdly, or finally, thus far anyhow, if you all just don't mind my saying so - or adding as much - only with all due respect then, saw, said CMC, sort of superseded, itself, by the very said, now CCC, complete, that is to say, with its, kind of unprecedented charter then, inviting sort of mere - Party - politicised disputes, with a view to, having it - contrary (it seems - or I dare say) to that very only remnant of the old Magna Carta (i.e. effectively protecting Free Speech - by preventing parliamentary proceedings from being called into question - at all) - delve into, matters of the very parliamentary proceedings themselves etc., not to mention, favouring such sorts of goings on - and/or only matters to be kind of referred to it from the ivory towers of government more generally - whereas ordinary citizens - faced with only a more onerous and cumbersome process (of having to run around and find a JP in order to filing a statutory declaration etc.) -

would not find - the very process of - the CCC so readily available - to themselves, you see, oh, but, that's, all, more, to the very point then, insofar as, how, over time, as the Committee may well be just drawn to appreciate then, the said institutions, ie right up to the very CCC of the day, have seemingly only become, further and farther removed, from the very sort of once traditional role, of the old CJC, ie. as a true guardian - against corruption in the purported administration of governmental functions and simultaneously as to the rights of individual citizens (at least insomuch as their contact - and/or potential contacts - with the criminal justice system might have been concerned then) - in Queensland, whilst, at the same time, as I say, the very role, overall, of today's (CCC) institution, might veritably appear, to the Everyman anyhow,

to have become, one, more merely focused upon, kind of Party-political argy-bargy and/or this or that example of some-would-be leading light-Party-politician sort of pushing the envelope or what-have-you, and, such that, might hardly be seen then, to be giving any, genuinely independent and, serious attention to, the processes of, overseeing the administration of the criminal justice system-on the whole, not to mention, more in particular, the QPS, at any rate-or at all then, let alone the pro-active detection and prevention etc. of corruption, in the purported administration of the business of the executive arm of government (or very public service-if you like), generally.

So, like I say, as the Members of the Committee may just begin to appreciate, as opposed to, the very said traditional role, of, inter alia, keeping

a good check on, the more irregular sort of Party-political goings-on, in the purported governance of Queensland, lest, you know, the state might just fall back into, the kinds of abuses and excesses of government, of the so-called pre-Fitzgerald-era, well, the operations-and very charter even-of the modern day institution, might be seen, as if practically, merely complementary, to all of, that, sort of thing, with little room, for anything else, whilst, as I was going to-so more in particular-say, quite contrary to the true spirit-or really even literal stipulations-of the inaugural legislation*, the CCC's, never been empowered, to comprehensively oversee, the very machinations of the QPS, and might indeed be seen, then, to only kind of matter-of-factly be referring, practically everything and anything-i.e. even ~~potenc~~

* for the CJC's constituting enactment, always provided for it to be, entirely, in charge, itself, of overseeing the operations of the QPS, with a view to that only being (similarly independently) maybe eventually ~~taken~~ handed over to another-should such become established, whereas, the said partisan QCC, was practically slapped together (as I say at least in part) in order to wrestling that function away! ...

potentially more serious matters of "(like) Official Misconduct (or the like)"* - back (or off) to the QPS itself - i.e. arguing that such matters might all be merely more kind of mundane and (apparently then) not even bothering to investigate as to whether or no its very own jurisdiction might be involved somehow, and c/f, to boot, even things like the (now albeit somewhat dated already) papers of purported inquiry into the use etc. of so-called "move-on" - powers, and other, sort of generally scoping arrays (or - as I say - would-be so) of the operations of the QPS, which the records of the CCC would cite - i.e. practically as its very own then, which hardly, appear as, any sort of, questioningly, hard hitting, independent reviews, or, are seemingly only, more bland-like - compilations, merely paying some sort of lip-service to basic human rights - and the public interest generally then, whilst apparently doing little more than recite

* that its only supposed to have the authority to handle itself! ...

generalised statistical work ups and/or the odd selected would-be kind of "case study" - likewise only vaguely kind of slapped together - that have been communicated by personnel of the QPS itself and/or the more aligned associates - in their very sort of "groupthink" (or so it might just seem anyhow) - thereof, which, might just seem, to kind of, bring me back to, the matter of, the so-called Public Interest Monitor, for, it's one thing, or I dare say, to have, such an office, that might be seen to be, amply resourced then, in order to providing, an ongoing up-to-date commentary, of robust proportions, to the very public at large, like, in the true spirit of an Ombudsman - of sorts, that would - inter alia - examine the very role and functions of the CCC, in the broader context - of like "best practice" all round and suchlike and so forth, so as to provide an effective critique, in the very public interest - not to mention with one eye firmly on

the rights and liberties of individual citizens generally, whereas, on the other hand, it's a different thing, altogether, to merely have, a would-be office, of a Public Interest Monitor, that is merely seen as, part of "the establishment", itself, or, you know, really only, reports to its kind of - Party - political masters - in government, whilst, under budgetary constraints and all no less, only purporting to have, a strictly limited charter - of its own - to merely focus down - sort of thing - on what the organisation (of the CCC) has actually gone about doing - in order to only ensuring that such might be within its own statutory role (or literally deciphered charter thereof then) and (in that light) it might have simply dotted all its i's and crossed all its t's then, you see, Hon. Members?

Now, just before I sign off on this very proposed submission, I would just like to make, one more, more particular point, and that is, to the effect of that, well, I, for one, can't seem to help, but feel, that, maybe, I mean, just maybe, it appears, at any rate*, that, something's, been kind of lost-or just overlooked then, as the "real world (as they say)" has sort of moved on so, in recent times, I mean, I don't think that, the said constituting legislation for the inaugural CJC, was ever drafted with, even a-particularised anyhow-greater appreciation of the modern day implications of the developments we've seen (since) in IT, and the use of the internet,

* and let's not forget the old common law adage, that justice must not only be done but be seen to be done. ...

and suchlike, and so forth, and, that is, to say nothing, I might just add, as to, the more sort of ad hoc uses, such that Wi-Fi-technology (as a kind of home-made surveillance method for example), and even high energy electromagnetic radiation (like HERF and microwave frequencies as-similarly homemade-sort of "anti-personnel-devices"), might just be being put to, potentially, by organised crime gangs, and/or would-be "urban terrorist"-types, in this very day and age, moreover, well, as far as the public, would be aware, anyhow, the QPS, is not, for the very purposes of the protection of-the rights and/or very persons of-members of the public in general, even contemplating, a bit of ad hoc research, into the possibilities of such developments, and so, I

would suggest - or humbly submit (in earnest) then, to the effect of that, it's high time (no pun intended), that the CCC's constituting legislation, was amended, to provide for, a specific new function, of the very CCC, itself, that would see it, charged with a duty, to regularly and periodically enquire, both, into the sorts of scientific developments (over time) of such sorts of said technologies, and, the uses that criminal elements (in society at large) may be seeking to deploy such for, er, and of course then, i.e. in the true spirit of the "pro-disclosure bias" etc., in order to, there being then, regular public releases, of as much of the results of such enquiries as it may be practical (from time to time) to so release.

Well, that would be all, that I could

manage to put down, herein, for the time being anyway, and, in wrapping up, kind of thing, I would just like to, leave the Committee with, the general view, of my overall points-herein, inso-much as, despite-or perhaps even more so in the light of-the re-cently pumped through amend-ments, to the QPS's internal disciplinary processes, I, for one, would not be confident that (even-or maybe especially so* - with respect to seemingly more minor disciplinary matters) the QPS, ought to be just so left, to kind of "look after themselves" - these days even, not the least of all - although it's not necessarily limited to just that - in light of, the apparent disarray, of the seemingly so Party-politi-cised modern day institution (of the CCC), whilst, to boot, all the hype, and suchlike, and ~~so~~ so forth, of

* and, well, let's not forget, how, left un-checked, for too long, such things, themselves, might add up to, more serious, systemic issues. ...

such, seemingly so typical, would-be wannabe "Law and Order" - Party platforms, kind of only rages on, er, ah, as if, just the very kind of "public opinion" of the day, out there, in the popularists' press, and, er, uh, maybe then, if I may, I'll endeavour, in the coming weeks-or so, to lodge, some further material, with some additional-more specific-submissions, e.g. as to the role of the witness protection programme-and its very operations then, and things like, the general need for budgetary constraints, on such, not to mention, what might seem to be, a developing need, to keep a sort of closer critical eye upon it (on the whole) in the very public interest, in light of the rapidly increasing delays-in the purported administration of the justice system-with the current social circumstances (and not the least of all the Coronavirus Pandemic then), and be that as it may, thank you anyway, for any consideration, the Committee may see fit to give, to this very contact.

Yours faithfully

The Anonymous Public Interest-Advocate