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Office of the
Director-General

Department of
Transport and Main Roads

4 August 2020

Mr Tim Nicholls MP
Chair
Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee
pccc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Nicholls

Thank you for your email of 2 June 2020 about the five-year review of the activities of the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC).

I am pleased to provide the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee (PCCC) a submission for consideration about the activities of the CCC.

Investigative Powers and Hearings

On 9 August 2019, the CCC launched Operation Impala to examine the access and misuse of personal and sensitive information by public sector agencies. Operation Impala culminated in a public hearing in November 2019. Senior executives, including myself, provided sworn evidence to the hearing to identify strengths and weaknesses and to assist in any reforms necessary.

The CCC report titled *Operation Impala – Report on misuse of confidential information in the Queensland Public Sector* (report) released on 21 February 2020, provided the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) with useful insights and recommendations. The report further enhances TMR's strong stance that all access to and use of personal and sensitive information is undertaken appropriately.

Corruption Function

TMR and the CCC have forged a strong relationship to ensure that the investigation and prevention of suspected corrupt conduct is dealt with pursuant to the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*. TMR appreciates the CCC's recently published corruption prevention tools including prevention pointers, short videos and other useful resources designed to combat suspected corrupt conduct.

In regard to the matters involving suspected corrupt conduct subject to Public Interest Review being overseen by the CCC, while the majority of those matters have met reasonable timeframes, occasionally, the CCC's oversight of Public Interest Reviews could be improved.

Historically, the experience of TMR when notifying the CCC of any matter involving suspected corrupt conduct is that the assessment by the CCC was sometimes not timely. In some cases, CCC Matters Assessed Reports were not provided to TMR until some months after initial notification, leading to unnecessary delays in investigation timeframes. In this review period, TMR has experienced a significant improvement in the assessment timeframes. TMR commends the CCC for its ongoing work in reducing the time taken to assess TMR matters.

Some years ago, the CCC hosted meetings of Directors (Ethical Standards) or their equivalents across the sector to share agency experience in dealing with suspected corrupt conduct. These meetings focused on providing the latest CCC information to public sector agencies and provided an opportunity to ask questions and share learnings with other integrity actors.

The Community of Practice for Ethical Behaviour (COPEB) meetings hosted by the Public Service Commission are a high-level opportunity to share information across the sector. While TMR sees merit in continuing with COPEB, the reintroduction of direct meetings between the CCC and TMR's Ethical Standards Unit, would afford both agencies with opportunities to discuss specific matters.

If the PCCC requires information or further assistance, Mr Trevor Chippindall, Director (Ethical Standards), TMR can be contacted on telephone [REDACTED].

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the PCCC with a submission.

Yours sincerely



Neil Scales
Director-General
Department of Transport and Main Roads