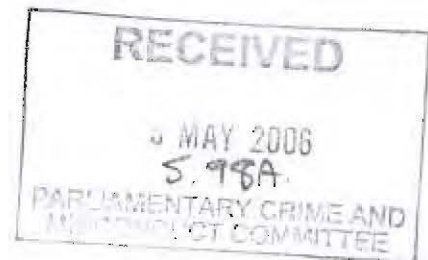




27 APR 2006

Queensland Transport

Mr Geoff Wilson MP
Chairman
Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000



Dear Mr Wilson

Three Year Review of the Crime and Misconduct Commission

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission about the three year review of the Crime and Misconduct Commission (CMC).

As a generalisation, Queensland Transport (QT) has established and maintains an excellent working relationship with the CMC. I have an annual face-to-face meeting with the Chair and senior officers of the CMC and, where I have judged it necessary to manage an issue, I have contacted the current Chair, Robert Needham and, previously, his predecessors for advice. Most recently I and my deputies met with Robert Needham and Assistant Commissioner Stephen Lambrides on 30 March 2006.

At officer level QT maintains regular contact with CMC staff about reporting and case managing matters of suspected official misconduct, prevention activities within QT and participating in CMC sponsored events, such as seminars. As a recent example, QT undertook a joint project with the CMC to conduct a corruption risk assessment of one of QT's business units. QT staff later gave a presentation about the project at a CMC seminar.

With the advice and assistance of the prevention staff at the CMC, QT conducted an ethics awareness program directed at all staff. An evaluation of this program demonstrated significant benefits to QT in the number of instances of suspected official misconduct matters prevented and in cost savings to both organisations. This is reflected in the reduced number of QT matters referred to the CMC as suspected official misconduct for the 2005 calendar year (17), when compared with the 2001 calendar year (45). I think this illustrates the value of the CMC's prevention activity.

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Despite the good working relationship with the CMC, there are some aspects of the CMC, which may be improved. These mainly relate to issues of timeliness in managing or responding to matters referred to them. I am advised that the CMC is aware of this issue and has a number of initiatives planned or in process to streamline complaint management.

One aspect that occasionally creates challenges for us is where we are investigating allegations about the conduct of QT staff, with the concurrence of the CMC, and we rely on the CMC to investigate particular aspects of the matter – for example, private phone calls or checking of bank details. In those situations, QT is dependent on the CMC's capacity to be able to conduct these covert checks within a reasonable timeframe.

In addition, on occasion QT and the CMC officers have formed different views about whether specific matters reported did or did not represent "official misconduct", but we have worked through these instances.

In line with its lead role in capacity building and prevention, I believe the CMC has undertaken initiatives in recent years, which will assist the public sector as a whole to implement corruption prevention programs. The CMC has released a number of guides dealing with topics such as conflict of interest (in partnership with the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) in NSW), corruption prevention and managing the impact of investigations. These initiatives have been well researched and well received and are directed at the public sector in general.

Prevention is one area in which the CMC has done a lot with relatively little. My observation is that consideration could be given to increasing the resourcing of their prevention function to allow for dedicated prevention staff to work with agencies on tailored programs.

I am not in a position to provide meaningful comment on any of the other issues mentioned in your letter.

Please call either myself or Brett Owen, Director (Internal Audit) on 31207111 if you require any clarification of the comment provided

Yours sincerely

[Original Signed]

Bruce Wilson
Director-General