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Office of the
Director-General

Department of
**Local Government, Planning,
Sport and Recreation**

Mr Geoff Wilson MP
Chairman
Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Wilson

I refer to this Department's letter dated 17 May 2006 in response to the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee's three year review of the Crime and Misconduct Commission ('CMC'). I would like to take this opportunity to provide further clarity around the intent of the Department's initial response.

I would like to say at the outset that I acknowledge the crucial role which the CMC plays in investigating and responding to allegations of suspected misconduct involving local governments in Queensland.

This Department plays a key role in building the capacity of local governments and ensuring an effective system of local government within Queensland. It is my view that this role is strengthened by building a strong and collaborative relationship with the CMC.

I am aware that the Department receives valuable assistance from the CMC. I value this relationship and the assistance provided by the CMC. The most recent example of this is the comprehensive report prepared by the CMC in relation to the recent enquiry into the Gold Coast City Council and the recommendations the CMC has made in relation to amendments to the *Local Government Act 1993*.

I would like to congratulate the CMC on the enactment of its new complaints handling processes which are to be implemented by all agencies State-wide. The effect of these new processes is that the Department will have the power to deal with certain complaints under section 38(1) of the *Crime and Misconduct Act 2001* (the 'Act'), provided regular reports are provided to the CMC. The Department, in consultation with the CMC, will determine, on a case by case basis, when it is appropriate to refer matters to the CMC under the new processes. The Department is of the view that the implementation of the new processes will give rise to many benefits, including the more timely and efficient management and investigation of allegations of suspected misconduct made under the Act for all parties involved.

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The Department and the CMC both have critical and complementary roles to play in building community confidence in the performance and accountability of public officials.

I have recently commissioned a review of the Department's responsibilities and roles in relation to the system of local government. One of the key outcomes I am looking for from this review is a more coordinated, collaborative approach to the way the Department goes about its business.

In this way, I hope to further strengthen our relationship with the CMC, who I regard as an important partner.

Yours sincerely

[Original Signed]

Michael Kinnane ESM FAIM
Director-General