



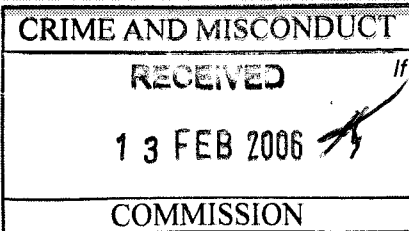
STANTHORPE SHIRE COUNCIL

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If telephoning or calling, please ask for:

Terry Brennan

File No. 204/02

9 February 2006

The Gold Coast City Council Inquiry
Crime and Misconduct Commission
GPO Box 3123
BRISBANE QLD 4001

CMC CLASSIFICATION	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Highly Protected
<input type="checkbox"/>	Protected
<input type="checkbox"/>	In-Confidence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified
Initials:.....	
Date:...../...../.....	
Reg No: 0.m.06/02457	

Dear Sir/Madam

I refer to the Discussion Paper published by the Crime and Misconduct Commission (CMC) in December 2005 relating to the Local Government Electoral Process in Queensland. It is noted that the Discussion Paper poses a series of questions in relation to current legislative requirements associated with certain aspects of the local government electoral process and the integrity of this process.

A copy of the Discussion Paper was referred to Council for consideration at its General Meeting held on 24 January 2006. The Council noted that a significant part of the Discussion Paper is devoted to issues associated with the disclosure of election gifts by candidates at local government elections.

Whilst not wishing to specifically comment on the individual issues raised in the Discussion Paper, Council would like to express its support for the retention of the existing legislative provisions relating to election donations, as it does not believe specific and widespread problems have been identified with these provisions. The existing provisions are somewhat complex to understand and it would appear that some of the options outlined in the Discussion Paper may result in this complexity being substantially increased, possibly adding to the confusion of candidates.

The Council requests that in undertaking its deliberations on this issue, the CMC is mindful of the fact that there are two alternate types of voting arrangements currently in operation for local governments in Queensland. These voting arrangements are voting by ordinary ballot and voting by full postal ballot, or possibly some combination of the two. A significant number of rural local governments in Queensland, including Stanthorpe Shire Council, conduct their elections via a full postal ballot.

The critical time frames associated with the administration of the election process under these alternate voting arrangements are somewhat different. It is therefore important that any proposals for change, particularly those relating to the timing for lodgement of returns by candidates, takes this factor into account.

The Council hopes that its brief comments are of assistance in reviewing the issues identified in the Discussion Paper.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'T P Brennan', written in a cursive style.

T P Brennan
Chief Executive Officer