



June 2016

# **Making allegations of corrupt conduct public**

## **Is it in the public interest?**

Submission form

## **Lodging a submission**

Send your submission to us by **5pm Thursday 30 June 2016** by any of the following methods:

Online: <[www.ccc.qld.gov.au/publicisingallegations/](http://www.ccc.qld.gov.au/publicisingallegations/)>

Post: Publicising allegations  
Crime and Corruption Commission  
Policy and Research  
GPO Box 3123 Brisbane Qld 4001

Email: [publicisingallegations@ccc.qld.gov.au](mailto:publicisingallegations@ccc.qld.gov.au)

Fax: 07 3360 6333

We may not consider late submissions.

## Do you wish to maintain partial or complete confidentiality?

We will generally publish submissions on our website — including the name of the submitter but no contact details. If you would prefer to maintain partial or complete confidentiality, please indicate your preference by selecting one of the following:

- NAME WITHHELD — PARTIAL CONFIDENTIALITY**  
I consent to my submission being published on the CCC website, without my name being disclosed.
- CONFIDENTIAL — COMPLETE CONFIDENTIALITY**  
I do not consent to my submission being published on the CCC website.

If there is no clear selection of one of these alternatives, we will regard any submission (including an anonymous submission) as a public document, and will publish it on our website.

The CCC may quote from your submission or refer to it, either generally or individually, in publications.

### Privacy statement

No submission marked as confidential will be published on our website. However, any submission may be subject to disclosure under the *Right to Information Act 2009* and the *Information Privacy Act 2009*, and applications to access submissions will be determined in accordance with those Acts.

If you provide your details, we may contact you to ask whether you consent to further consultation for the purposes of this project.

## Your details

*Provide as much or as little information as you wish.*

Name(s):	James Dodrill		
Organisation:	Ipswich Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc.		
Address:	[REDACTED]		
Phone:	[REDACTED]	Mobile:	[REDACTED]
		Fax:	[REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]		

## Your submission

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You may wish to address the following considerations in your submission.

### Open, transparent and accountable government

Politicians who engage in corrupt or improper behaviour should not be afforded any special protection by the law. All levels of government must be transparent and accountable to those who they serve. Public criticism and the airing of legitimate complaints against corrupt officials should not be punished by the law. If this change to legislation goes ahead, it would effectively become the "Shoot The Messenger Legislation".

Ipswich Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc believe that there is corruption and improper behaviour [REDACTED] which needs to be thoroughly investigated. This includes significant interference in local government elections [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] appear to use the resources of the [REDACTED] to help shield them from scrutiny by the media, the Office of the Information Commissioner and ratepayer groups.

If police, victims of crime and the media can publicly report certain facts and allegations in cases of murder and other serious crimes, then surely the same can be done in cases of corruption and improper behaviour by politicians.

### Freedom of speech

We believe that whistleblowers [REDACTED] have been threatened and bullied and therefore prevented from contacting the CCC about allegations of corruption. If these whistleblowers were legally prevented from airing their complaints publicly or in the [REDACTED] officials use [REDACTED] to shield themselves from CCC scrutiny, then what other recourse is left?

One of the reasons that the historic Fitzgerald Inquiry was so successful was because of the public nature of the reporting of the investigations into corrupt officials. It is our belief that official corruption in Queensland has moved from the sphere of State Government to that of Local Government. An open and thorough inquiry and public discussion is overdue into this area.

Remember, the CCC is funded and supported by taxpayers so it should work in favour of taxpayers, not against them. The aim should be to protect the office, not the person who sits in office.

## Reputation of alleged subject officers

It concerns us that [REDACTED] submissions appearing to support the prosecution of whistleblowers. There are already sufficient laws in place to protect the reputation of any person from false or malicious accusations.

## Fair trial

## Effectiveness of the CCC

We believe that the CCC has been ineffective in investigation complaints of corruption and unlawful behaviour in local government. We also believe that the Sustainable Planning Act is not being adhered to properly [REDACTED] in order for [REDACTED] developers to have outcomes that they may not have had otherwise.

We are of the understanding that this year's Ipswich City Council elections were marred by improper [REDACTED] behaviour [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

We believe that investigation of these matters should be a priority for the CCC so that the public can have confidence in the electoral and democratic process.

Whistleblowers should be given special protection and allowed to air these matters from their own perspective rather than being silenced by the threat of the law.

If a period of blackout is needed for CCC investigators to carry out their job effectively then this should be discussed with the person making the complaint rather than criminalising them for helping to keep our society democratic and free from corruption.

## Other







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**QUEENSLAND**

**Crime and Corruption Commission**  
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