

15.8 (08/05) - CMC

*Member Consultation (N/A)*

*Background*

Executive members noted recent media coverage relating to matters referred to the Crime and Misconduct Commission concerning local governments. Concern was expressed over the way matters were able to be raised with the CMC and the lack of action taken when matters are found to have been raised without justification. The damage caused by CMC referrals was compounded by matters being openly discussed in the media. The lack of action taken against those raising vexatious complaints had previously been raised with the government. It was considered important that the government recognise that many issues raised in relation to local government can be dealt with through the local Government Act and the new Code of Conduct. It was also important that negative images arising from media reporting of complaints against councils be balanced by information about local government accountability. It was suggested that the LGAQ could work with the CMC to produce a joint publication on councillors' obligations.

*Discussion*

*Current Policy*

*Budget Impacts*

*Decision*

Moved: Cr Mooney

Seconded: Cr Brent

"That :-

- 1) The President and Executive Director meet with the Chair of the CMC and the Chair of the PCMC to discuss the issues of concern raised by Executive members in relation to CMC referrals, and;
- 2) The LGAQ develop a statewide strategy to assist councils highlight the openness and accountability of local government"

CARRIED