

Submission 14 - Gregory Copley

20 June 2016

Mr Alan MacSporran  
Chairman,  
Crime and Corruption Commission  
GPO Box 3123  
Brisbane, Qld. 4001



**SUBMISSION**

"For publication"

Dear Mr MacSporran,

I am writing to you to lodge with the Commission a Submission regarding the "Making allegations of corrupt conduct public: is it in the Public Interest?"

I am amazed that it has got to this stage in Queensland that the Commission would expend any money on such a fundamental question.

Surely in an open Democratic Society the answer can only be Yes.

**UNACCOUNTABLE SECRET POLITICAL/LEGAL CLUB:**

Judging by the Report headed "Our Secret State" published on 24/10/15 in the Courier Mail it appears wealthy and well organized political and legal operatives are doing all in their power to organize and control information regarding crime in this State.

**RE: Annexure "A"**

If those who desire to keep the Public in the dark which may be the outcome of the Commissions expensive Exercise then it will be another success for those in the Political and Legal fraternities some of whose efforts before during and since the Fitzgerald Inquiry have kept the People in the a dark regarding organized crime in Queensland.

As to the long term concerns of the Queensland Local Government Association with persons lodging complaints with the Commission before elections about corruption in Queensland Councils, I suggest under present State Legislation local government members have little to fear when considering the various Commissions conviction history. As an example I refer to March 16, 1991 C/M report "Resolve Council Probes: LGA.

**RE: Annexure "B"**

Had various State Attorney's and Local Government Ministers brought Legislation before Parliament and had it passed then your commission may not be able to exonerate inappropriate and possibly corrupt practices as has been the history of the Commissions Decisions since about 1989.

**INEFFECTIVER CONTROL BODIES:**

The CCC like previous Commissions is as ineffective as the bureaucrat pandering State Ombudsman's office and the infamous Police Complaints Tribunal whose collective

history whilst protective of the political, legal and bureaucratic elites, insults most People who are paying for the show which is not unlike watching a hugely expensive, bloated and a very boring bad Opera.

**DISCUSSION PAPER & INVITATION FOR PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS:**

As to page 5 headed **Important Considerations**, I refer to **Reputation of alleged subject officers**: Under the present State Legislation the Commission's conviction rate is very low or non existent so the criminal offender knows he or she has little or no chance of conviction for their highly profitable crimes and for this reason corruption in local government is out of control. Like corruption in the Queensland Police Force Council corruption has become extremely secretive and highly organized by avaricious, intelligent criminals.

While I appreciate your material clearly discourages any allegations of specific examples of corruption, I suggest the following Example One of organized and intelligent corruption {while not specific of a particular Council} is necessary to support my Submission.

**Example One:**

A Local Council adopts a Policy called **CORPORATE PLAN PRIORIT.**

1. Infrastructure and community facilities
  - 1.1 Plan for and maintain infrastructure and assets to meet growth
  - 1.2 Plan for and maintain community facilities that support diverse needs
  - 1.4 Provide a structured approach to asset management
6. Strong and supportive communities
  - 6.1 Strengthen the community's self capacity and pride.

**ABUSE OF A CORRUPT COUNCIL SYSTEM:**

Under these Strategic Intentions councillors are encouraged to support these dubious local sporting club committee members some of whom are not the best money managers, in fact, some are failed business men and woman with drink and gambling problems, but they are street smart and are out for a quick quid and very quickly learn how to take advantage of Council's generous intentions. They by nature understand the importance of getting the backing of the Divisional Councillor and some are organized by Council staff.

**PROMOTION OF SITTING COUNCILLOR:**

They actively promote the sitting Councillor particularly if that councillor is a "Council Team Player" to all club members, Residents and Council's lackey local Press. They even hand out how to vote cards for their Councillor on election day. As such they are a dangerous Force within the Community funded with rate payers money.



After embezzling money from the Sporting Club they then lean on the Councillor who on their behalf get Council to waiver rates and charges because the Club has no money.

**HALF A MILLION DOLLAR LOSS OF RATE MONEY:**

In some instances they close down the Sporting Club and that way Council writes off the debt which may amount to half a million dollar or more.

After these Sporting Committee members have tasted such success they then start up a new committee with some of the same members. Usually the old Committee members who have standing in the Club and command respect, advise and direct the new Committee members.

**NEW SPORTING CLUB PROPOSALS:**

They prepare new written proposals and they come back to council for more money and under the above policy Council goes into Committee and in SECRET under its 'noble' policy again loans more Rate Payers money to the new Committee and the alleged Sporting Club continues the Rort, all over again.

**SUPPORTING POLITICAL SYSTEM WITH RATE PAYERS MONEY:**

Councillors and their council administrators know they are throwing good money away but they don't care because it is not their money and there is a strong political advantage for Mayors and Councillors and administrators in supporting the system.

**C.C.C. CULTURE OF SELF IMPORTANCE:**

It's time your Commission spent less time on promoting its culture of self importance and false pride and started working to expose and prosecute Mayors, Councillors and greedy administrators who are enjoying financial and other kick backs from the money gatherers acting as Sporting Committee members who utilize this much abused and very despicable Council Policy.

As to **Fair Trial and Effectiveness of the CCC** the arguments put forward are typical of a Defence Lawyer but they in no way counter the importance of Public Interest. As corruption is so out of control in Queensland at this stage it is an insult to the Queensland tax payer to even consider such arguments, and particularly as corruption has reached such a highly intelligent level as that outlined under Example One: CORPORATE PLAN PRIORITY.

**IN EXCESS OF ONE BILLION DOLLARS:**

As the People of this State have spent over one Billion Dollars on the running of the various Crime Commission since 1989 then I say it is appropriate and the People have the right to lodge complaints with the Commission whenever it suits them, and those complaints should be made Public, **as they are in the Public Interest.**

**OUTCOME OF CCC QUESTION IF SUCCESSFUL:**

If the CCC recommends to government the making allegations of corrupt conduct is not in the Public Interest and the Government legislates in this regard then disclosure of the "Christensen bribe allegation" at a state and local level would be unlawful in Queensland. To keep the Public in the dark over such a serious matter as this would be extremely undemocratic and not in the Public Interest.

Our Community have a right to know the history of Candidates, their intentions and what type of persons they are prior to voting in Elections. No Government or a CCC type operation should tamper with the Public Interest.

**RE: Annexure "C"**

**POLICE STATE & "The Three" MALADMINISTERED GOVERNMENTS:**

As Queensland is a Police State and as its State and Local Governments are operating in a culture of corrupt practices and at a Federal level both the old Parties are strenuously resisting an overdue Crime and Corruption type Commission, I believe to curtail making allegations of corrupt conduct public would be a retrograde step and not in the Public Interest.

I trust my Submission assists the Commission and I look forward to advice regarding any Public meetings you intend holding on this matter at your convenience.

Yours faithfully,



Gregory Copley





# OUR SECRET STATE

24-10-15 d/m.

"A"



**T**HE landmark Fitzgerald Inquiry into crime and misconduct in Queensland was successful because its hearings were conducted under the public gaze.

Ordinary people were shocked at the kaleidoscope of crimes exposed: kickbacks to crooked coppers, rorts, juicy and unlawful sexual intrigues. And criminality at the pinnacle of government.

The antiseptic of public disclosure worked its magic.

As offences were exposed more Queenslanders felt empowered to come forward with further evidence of wrongdoing.

So the crooks were punished (many of them, anyway) and the state was able to draw a line under that extraordinary era and move on.

Right now Queensland is conducting another royal commission-style inquiry into organised crime. Its modus operandi is completely the opposite of Tony Fitzgerald's.

It is operating under a cloak of secrecy.

If we backtrack to March we see Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk promising an inquiry that would "leave no stone unturned". The inquiry would be "far-reaching".

She appointed experienced silk Michael Byrne, QC, as the commissioner with special powers.

Byrne himself, in an interview with *The Australian*, confirmed his commission of inquiry would cover crimes as diverse as illicit drug production and distribution, the sexual exploitation of children, financial crimes and organised crime.

The drug trade, pedophilia and white-collar crime did not figure so prominently in Fitzgerald's inquisition. So the scope of Byrne's inquiry suggests it may be even more important.

Byrne (above) was reported as saying the inquiry would endeavour for "most hearings to be held in public".

This has not been the case. No doubt Byrne has good

reasons for holding hearings in private. But there is no justification for a total news blackout. If the media is kept in the dark, the public's right to know is trampled.

If the Byrne inquiry fails to take the public into its confidence it is destined to fail. I hope it doesn't, but it may. Justice does not work very well in the dark.

I was told there have been many closed-door hearings. It is known that the inquiry received 61 submissions and issued more than 130 notices compelling "relevant individuals" to provide information. Goodness knows what has been uncovered.

The cloak of secrecy has been deliberate. When I asked to examine the submissions I was told they would not be made public now, and perhaps never would be.

The Bar Association declined to release its submission. So did the Queensland Law Society. They, too, may have their reasons. Perhaps they have accused solicitors and bankers profiting from drug-peddling bikies. Who knows?

Nevertheless, all this secrecy makes me wonder whether we have all unwittingly been transported to a new Moonlight State run by lawyers for lawyers.

Palaszczuk is a lawyer; so too Attorney-General Yvette D'Ath. They must explain how crime prevention has suddenly become the prerogative of a secret club of their making.

The lack of public hearings has infuriated Bob Bottom, Australia's most successful crime buster. As the special investigator for NSW police he helped bring several organised crime syndicates to justice.

"I have been involved in 18 royal commissions since the '60s and I have never known a royal commission to be held without some public hearings," Bottom told me.

"It's unbelievable. I can't imagine why they would have the first inquiry in 30 years and keep it secret. It doesn't add up. And it is a total contradiction of what the Premier, Byrne and the Attorney-General said it would be at the outset.

"Imagine if (royal commissioners) Fitzgerald, (Frank) Costigan and (Don) Stewart didn't have public hearings. There would have been hell to pay in the media."

Bottom said commissions of inquiry could be a powerful force in exposing wrongdoing.

He added: "It is the ultimate weapon under the

Westminster system to combat organised crime – and letting the people know what is going on."

Bottom is right.

Byrne must report to Palaszczuk in a week.

Without public hearings no political feathers have been ruffled. That is apparently how the Palaszczuk Government, now a sub-branch of Trades Hall, likes it.

Bottom also points out that there simply isn't enough time to probe all the crime areas outlined in the terms of reference.

These included a probe into the economic and social impacts of organised crime, money laundering, cyber crime, identity theft, violence and extortion, financial market fraud and financial data theft.

If he follows his brief to the letter Byrne must also examine the "adequacy and appropriateness of the current responses of Queensland law enforcement, Queensland intelligence and Queensland prosecution agencies to prevent and combat organised crime in Queensland".

And he must also inform the Government about trends in organised crime.

All that in six months? Impossible. Fitzgerald took two years to deliver his report.

Running parallel to the Byrne crime inquiry is an examination of the anti-bikie laws by a taskforce chaired by retired Supreme Court judge Alan Wilson. D'Ath has already flagged a watering down of Newman government laws that have helped curb bikie crime. Again we are being kept in the dark. No submissions and no comment was forthcoming.

Meanwhile, the commission of inquiry has a budget of \$6 million so may be spending \$1 million a month. One day we may need a taskforce to find out where the money went.

**I have never known a royal commission to be held without some public hearings**



"B"

c/m

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 1991

# Resolve council probes: LGA

THE Local Government Association wants the Criminal Justice Commission to resolve its investigations into local authority corruption before next week's council elections.

The LGA secretary, Mr Greg Hoffman, said yesterday that the CJC should "as far as is humanly possible" resolve local government matters before the March 23 poll, "particularly if it is a local issue where it affects candidates".

The CJC parliamentary committee chairman, Mr Beattie, said local government matters

By ED SOUTHORN

requiring further investigation or prosecution would probably not be resolved before the elections.

Rushed investigations could lead to a travesty of justice.

"The committee has discussed with the commission that (local government) matters be finalised where possible before March 23 to remove clouds over people," he said.

"But it is not possible for everyone to be dealt with by that date because there have been so

many matters referred to the commission."

A CJC spokesman said that 80 to 90 local government complaints had been made to the commission, involving councils or individual councillors or aldermen.

He said the CJC chairman, Sir Max Bingham, was expected to report to the CJC parliamentary committee or the Local Government Minister, Mr Burns, on some local government matters before March 23, including at least four councils which were the subject of closed hearings last month.

Mr Beattie said that he expected that councils or councillors and aldermen cleared of complaints probably would be advised before the elections.

The Pine Rivers Shire Council has voted to ask the CJC if any of its councillors are under investigation.

Cr Joe Bradley said the public had a right to know this before an election.

He said his council also had adopted a motion from him that the CJC be asked if Cr Brian Burke was under investigation, not that the CJC be asked to investigate Cr Burke as reported last Thursday.

"C"

