



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/>

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

Email: 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):	<input type="text"/>		
Organisation:	<input type="text"/>		
Address:	<input type="text"/>		
Phone:	<input type="text"/>	Mobile: <input type="text"/>	Fax: <input type="text"/>
Email:	<input type="text"/>		

Your submission

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

Open, transparent and accountable government

We believe that it is in the public interest to maintain the status quo. That being that complaints may be disclosed and published without penalty. Based on our experiences we believe that open, honest and transparent government is not currently being achieved.

We want to have confidence in the complaints processes including the CCC however at this time that confidence and trust is not guaranteed. In our experiences it would be very poor judgement to place any trust or confidence in government complaints processes including the CCC. We are open to having new and improved experiences in relation to open, transparent and accountable government with all levels of govt and the complaints processes with a view to not needing to rely on the complaints processes at all in the long run.

Freedom of speech

We believe in freedom of speech and the right to express ones concerns in anyway a person or group deems appropriate under all the circumstances.

Any party to a complaint, whistleblower or accused, should maintain the right to express their concern, reservation or co-operation as they see fit.

The complainant and the alleged perpetrator have the right to speak freely about the matter if they deem that is the appropriate course of action in all the circumstances. This is managed well in relation to other jurisdiction like for example police alleging certain offences or clarifying that an individual is assisting in an investigation. This is very normal practice and the CCC should be no different. The current arrangements, the status quo, is more than adequate under all the circumstances.

Reputation of alleged subject officers

We believe that the reputation of alleged subject officers is not the responsibility of the CCC. The responsibility of the CCC is to honour and uphold the public perception of the office not the officer. Alleged perpetrators would not be facing public scrutiny if they behaved appropriately in the first place. It is only through utmost frustration with "the system" that individuals resort to disclosing or publicising complaints. The public already know enough to have their suspicions and concerns or know enough to ignore it. Do not underestimate the public's ability to understand the context of the difference between an

allegation and charges or a conviction. This is normal in every day life with police and other matters so it is not difficult to keep the reporting or disclosure of complaints to the CCC in the relevant context.

Fair trial

As stated previously, in other jurisdictions, fair trial is not impacted by disclosure. In fact, it is in the public interest to know, for example that a body has been found and that the relevant authority is acting. Lets not complicate that which already works in every day life. Fair trial is not effected by the public knowing that an allegation has been made or the details of that allegation. In fact it is in the public interest to have relevant information to feel confident that the relevant authority has been informed.

Effectiveness of the CCC

In our experience to date, the CCC is not effective especially on white collar crime in relation to local government. We look forward to our opinion being changed in time through accurate, credible and timely communication and responses. From a review of the CCC website and media statements it is obvious that the focus is not on white collar crime. This needs to change because there is definitely something very dodgy going on in local government. People are loosing their livelihoods, officers are frustrated with the verious dodgy systems they are forced to operate under and it is having a serious socio-economic impact on our communities. If the CCC were effective on white collar crime then there would be evidence of this acting as a deterrent to others. From our observations this is simply not the case and it must change. Bikie gangs etc are low hanging fruit however we do not believe that is the root off the issue.

Other

We are shocked and very disappointed to see that only this week , ██████████ appointed to review the ECQ in relation to local govt elections and other matters. This is not appropriate and is a real conflict of interst given ██████ residence within the LGAQ and it's business entities ██████████. We certainly hope that the CCC can be more independent, open, transparent and accountable in it's decisions than this short sighted convenient ECQ review process. However, the fact that this discussion paper and submissions about the public interest has been deemed appropriate or necessary is an indication that our trust and confidence issues with the complaints processes is justified. We look forward to improvements in how the CCC deals with white collar complaints and again state that we support the status quo.



Crime and Corruption Commission

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