

# **Corruption Audit Plan 2021–2023**

A snapshot of our two-year program of audits for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2023

# First year – Planned corruption prevention audits (2021–22)

#### 1. MISUSE OF PUBLIC RESOURCES

Public resources are intended to help employees carry out tasks associated with their work duties and provide efficient services to the community. They are not provided for the personal benefit of employees. Where such misuse becomes public knowledge, it has the potential to diminish trust in government as an efficient manager of public resources.

Public agencies should not assume that employees will make sound judgements, particularly when their personal interests are at stake. The risk of misuse of public resources increases when employees are involved in secondary employment. Public agencies need to regularly raise staff awareness of this issue, by encouraging employees to explore conflicts of interest through the discussion of scenarios. Relevant policies need to be actively promoted.

#### Scope of work

Examine a sample of allegations involving misuse of public resources and how public agencies are reducing the incidences of corruption. The audit will also use data analytics to detect fuel consumption fraud in local councils, where possible.

# Who are we auditing?

**Departments:** Education | Environment and Science |

Queensland Police Service

**Councils**: Bundaberg Regional | Ipswich City | Whitsunday

Regional

**GOC:** SunWater Limited

Data analytics: Bundaberg Regional | Ipswich City

#### **Timing**

July to December 2021

#### **DYNAMIC PREVENTION PROJECT**

The CCC aims to conduct a dynamic corruption prevention activity each year. This work will be linked to our Corruption Strategic Intelligence and Investigation activities.

#### Scope of work

The CCC will determine what it will undertake as part of a dynamic prevention audit. The scope of the work will be determined prior to the commencement date of this project.

#### Who might we audit?

Agencies, scope of work and outputs may not be disclosed and published.

#### **Timing**

September 2021 to March 2022

#### 2. RECRUITMENT (PART A – SELECTION PROCESS)

Corruption risks relating to nepotism and undue influence in recruitment processes will be examined.

Corrupt conduct around recruitment and selection is a common issue identified in CCC investigations and by other integrity agencies. Undue influence in the recruitment process has also been identified as a key corruption risk by the CCC.

Employing people, including family members, without a genuine merit-based process may affect productivity, lead to inefficient use of limited resources, and create a poor workplace culture.

The CCC did a recruitment audit in 2017, and will build on that work to focus on some fundamental weaknesses that can enable and promote corruption within public agencies.

# Scope of work

Examine how well public agencies have responded to allegations of corruption, implemented policies and processes, and initiated awareness-raising and other prevention measures.

# Who are we auditing?

**Departments:** Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs | Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and

Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

Statutory Authority: Queensland Rural and Industry

**Development Authority** 

**GOC:** Gladstone Ports Corporation Limited

# Timina

January to June 2022

# Second year – Planned corruption prevention audits (2022–23)

#### 3. RECORDS OF MEETINGS WITH LOBBYISTS

Advocacy or lobbying in relation to issues of public concern or in the public interest can have many beneficial outcomes for the people of Queensland. However, lobbying can be a corruption risk when its aim is to improperly influence decision-makers and induce them to act contrary to the public interest. For this reason, public agencies and government officials are obliged to keep records of all meetings and/or activities with lobbyists or advocacy groups, so that the purpose, nature and outcomes of such meetings are detailed, transparent and accountable, in accordance with their obligations under the Public Records Act 2002.

Failure to maintain records about such meetings may create perceptions of a deliberate intention to suppress information and disguise corrupt conduct.

# Scope of work

Examine how comprehensively public agencies and government officials are maintaining records of their meetings with lobbyists.

# Who are we auditing?

Selection of departments, councils, the premier, ministers, assistant ministers. ministerial staff members and the Leader of the Opposition.

#### **Timing**

July to October 2022

#### 4. EMPLOYMENT SCREENING

Corruption risks arise when agencies do not conduct appropriate screening of employees.

Inadequate employment screening (such as failing to verify applicants' claims about qualifications, work history, discipline and criminal histories, and conflicts of interest) can place a public agency at greater risk of corruption.

An agency may have employment screening processes in place, but not consistently implement them, or processes may not be adequately designed to mitigate the risk of corruption.

# Scope of work might be

Examine the adequacy of employment screening policies and processes, monitoring activities, and design a best practice guide to help public agencies.

# Who might we audit?

Departments: Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs | Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

Statutory Authority: Queensland Rural and **Industry Development Authority** 

**GOC:** Gladstone Ports Corporation Limited

#### **Timing**

September 2022 to January 2023

#### 5. COMPLAINT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

People working for a public agency, members of the public and suppliers all have the right to make a complaint about corrupt conduct. They also expect investigators to investigate their complaints seriously and impartially. They expect decision-makers to ensure appropriate disciplinary outcomes proportionate to the seriousness of the subject officer's conduct, in order to build a corruption-resistant culture within the public agency.

Enforcement is reliant on three fundamental approaches: detection (sometimes through complaints), management (investigations) and deterrence (through appropriate disciplinary outcomes to improve workplace culture).

This audit will examine the efficacy of agencies' investigations, disciplinary decisionmaking and the extent to which agencies minimise the risk of reprisals against complainants during these processes.

# Scope of work might be

Examine how well public agencies have dealt with allegations of corruption and consider whether policies adequately protect disclosers and the appropriateness of disciplinary outcomes.

#### Who might we audit?

Selection of public agencies across government sectors.

# **Timing**

December 2022 to April 2023

#### 6. DYNAMIC PREVENTION PROJECT NO. 2

The CCC aims to conduct a dynamic corruption prevention activity each year. This work will be linked to our Corruption Strategic Intelligence and Investigation activities.

#### Scope of work

The CCC will determine what it will undertake as part of a dynamic prevention audit. The scope of the work will be determined prior to the commencement date of this project.

#### Who might we audit?

Agencies, scope of work and outputs may not be disclosed and published.

#### **Timing**

April to June 2023