



Crime and Corruption Commission
QUEENSLAND

Investigation Murray

An investigation into allegations of corrupt conduct by
the Mayor of Townsville

November 2025



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27 November 2025

The Honourable Pat Weir MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Speaker

RE: Investigation Murray – Public Report

In accordance with section 69(1)(b) of the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* (the Act), the Crime and Corruption Commission hereby furnishes to you its report *Investigation Murray – An investigation into allegations of corrupt conduct by the Mayor of Townsville*.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'B A Barbour'.

Bruce Barbour
Chairperson

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The CCC's corruption function

1. The CCC's corruption functions are prescribed by the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* (CC Act).¹ One of its primary responsibilities is to investigate matters that may involve corrupt conduct by, or involving, person/s holding an appointment² within a unit of public administration (UPA)³ in Queensland.

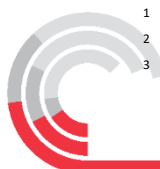
Public reporting

2. Public reporting supports the performance of the CCC's functions, by assisting to raise standards of integrity in public administration, identifying corruption risks and areas for reform, and by providing public assurance that complaints of serious wrongdoing in the public sector will be appropriately investigated.
3. Public reporting takes on particular importance in relation to elected officials. Elected officials are not subject to the same disciplinary mechanisms as are public sector employees. In those circumstances, there is a particular public benefit in providing an account of the outcome of an investigation, to ensure that the electorate is properly informed – whether the outcome is positive, negative or neutral.
4. That is not to say that public reports will be prepared in every such case. There are several competing factors (set out in the CC Act) which are considered in determining whether it is appropriate to issue a public report.
5. In the present case, the CCC considered that the public interest was best served by a public report on its investigation.
6. Section 48B(1) of the CC Act provides that the CCC must not make any finding or statement that a person has engaged in corruption. It must not make any finding, recommendation or statement that a person should be prosecuted for a criminal offence or be the subject of disciplinary action, or that prosecution proceedings or disciplinary action should be considered in relation to a person. And it must not make any finding or statement that there is evidence, or insufficient evidence, supporting the start of a proceeding against a person. Nothing in this report should be taken as conveying any of these matters.

¹ CC Act, Part 3, Division 1 (particularly sections 33, 34 and 35).

² CC Act, section 21.

³ CC Act, section 20.



Statutory considerations

7. In making the decision to report on this corruption matter, including the decisions to prepare a public report, preparation of prescribed content and the referral of the report for tabling in Parliament,⁴ the CCC has had regard to each of the mandatory considerations.⁵
8. Where the CCC proposes to make an adverse statement about a person in a public report, the CCC must furnish the person with a copy of the draft report, or extracts of the report, containing the adverse comment and invite them to make a submission as to the report and/or evidence. The CCC must invite such persons to make submissions in relation to the extract or related evidence and provide the person with a period of no less than 30 days in which to make the submission.⁶
9. A particular factor which the CCC must consider in relation to public reporting is whether the report may prejudice any proceeding, or reasonably foreseeable future proceeding, in relation to the corruption matter.
10. By 1 October 2025, the CCC had, following consultation with the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), reached a conclusion that a public report would not prejudice any proceedings.

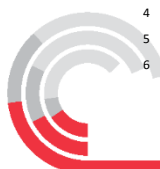
Procedural fairness

11. Between 1 and 6 October 2025, the CCC prepared a draft of a proposed public report.
12. On 8 October 2025 written notice of the relevant portions of this report containing proposed adverse comments, namely the summaries of Parts 1–4 of the below report, were furnished to two relevant parties seeking any proposed submissions by close of business 30 days later, 7 November 2025.
13. Between 10 October and 5 November 2025, the CCC received a number of submissions from, or on behalf of, Mr Thompson seeking extensions of the time in which to provide submissions in relation to procedural fairness.
14. Mr Thompson sought extensions on the basis that the investigation was lengthy and complicated, and involved a significant amount of material to consider. He also identified a need to make inquiries with, and potentially take statements from witnesses, and engage experts in a range of matters. He also identified a need for his legal representatives to have time to apprise themselves of the material and issues.
15. The timeframe for providing submissions was, on 5 November 2025, ultimately extended to 21 November 2025 following further representations from Mr Thompson’s legal representative.
16. On 19 November 2025, correspondence was received from Mr Thompson’s legal representative (see Annexure 1) advising that as to Part 1, Mr Thompson had no submissions to make, however as to Parts 2–4 below, Mr Thompson, in each case, *‘denies committing any kind of misconduct or criminal offence and respectfully declines to provide a response in circumstances where there is the prospect of future criminal proceedings’*. Nil response was received from the other invited party.

⁴ CC Act, section 69.

⁵ CC Act, section 64A(2).

⁶ CC Act, section 69B.



Human Rights Compatibility Statement

17. In addition to these statutory requirements, in deciding to prepare and/or publish a public report, the CCC must act consistently with any other law. The CCC is required by the *Human Rights Act 2019* to act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights, and in making decisions, to give proper consideration to human rights relevant to the decision.
18. The CCC has given proper consideration to the following rights which may be affected by the preparation and publication of the report: the right to freedom of expression (section 21), the right to take part in public life (section 23), the right to privacy and reputation (section 25), the right to fair hearing (section 31) and rights in criminal proceedings (section 32).
19. The CCC has considered competing human rights impacting the decision to publish the report. The CCC has balanced, on the one hand, the right to freedom of expression which extends to accessing government held information and the right to take part in public life, which is promoted by the Queensland community being properly informed about political affairs and enhancing integrity in systems which support the democratic process. On the other hand, the CCC has balanced individual rights, including the right to privacy and reputation and the rights to fair hearing and criminal proceedings (which are not limited by the decision). As any interference with privacy is lawful and not arbitrary, and no reputations are unlawfully attacked, the CCC has determined that the decision to publish the report is compatible with human rights under the *Human Rights Act 2019*.

Purpose of this public report

20. The purpose of this public report is to highlight the importance of integrity in local government.
21. In particular, this report deals with issues of:
 - a) Honesty by candidates in seeking election
 - b) The use of 'informal advisors' by elected officials
 - c) Management of confidential information within local government.
22. This report specifically addresses:
 - the need for candour by electoral candidates in electoral processes
 - the challenges in identifying and addressing false or misleading information by electoral candidates
 - the need for legislative reform to ensure there are appropriate systems and processes to verify and ensure the accuracy of claims made by candidates
 - the need for appropriate management of confidential information
 - the use of informal advisors by elected officials
 - the need for legislative reforms in relation to enforcing relevant criminal offences associated with local government offences, including misleading voters and disclosing confidential information obtained during official duties, and
 - the need for legislative reform to align the local government sector with the public sector with regard to post-separation disciplinary processes and/or declarations.



Overview of investigation/s

23. Investigation Murray is a complex and protracted investigation arising from multiple complaints received by the CCC in relation to the conduct of the then Mayor of Townsville, Mr Troy Joseph Thompson (previously known as Troy Joseph Birnbrauer) (Mr Thompson). The emergence of additional information, and ongoing referral of various complaints to the CCC during the investigation, required the re-evaluation of previously obtained evidence and enquiries.
24. Following his election as Mayor of Townsville on 27 March 2024, the CCC received thirty-two (32) discrete complaints relating to Mr Thompson. As Mayor, Mr Thompson was a person who held an appointment within a UPA.
25. These various complaints were distilled into four key parts for investigation (in chronological order):
 - **Part One** – Termination of, and severance payment made to, the former Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Townsville City Council (TCC)
 - **Part Two** – Allegedly false representations and misleading statements made to voters during Mr Thompson’s election campaign
 - **Part Three** – Alleged improper conduct of Mr Thompson directed to TCC Councillors following his appointment as Mayor
 - **Part Four** – Alleged unlawful/improper disclosure of confidential/commercially sensitive TCC documents and/or information to third parties.
26. The complaints were subject to thorough investigation, including the collection and review of:
 - 29 statements from relevant witnesses
 - 21 digital devices and nine cloud data downloads
 - 6,853,386 electronic records
 - 8741 WhatsApp messages
 - 2487 pages of medical records, and
 - 300+ media and social media videos.
27. Further, evidence obtained during the investigation revealed that Mr Thompson had previously been known as Troy Joseph Birnbrauer. This additional information necessitated further investigation, collation of additional materials and reconsideration of earlier considered records and materials.
28. Hereinafter, any reference to Mr Thompson includes a reference to him by his former identity Mr Troy Joseph Birnbrauer.
29. Mr Thompson was offered the opportunity to be interviewed by the CCC in relation to its investigation, however he declined to do so.



Part One – Termination of, and severance payment made to, the former TCC Chief Executive Officer

30. On 14 May 2024, a complaint was received by the CCC that within days of commencing in his role as the incoming Mayor, Mr Thompson negotiated, without authority, payment of a severance payment to the then CEO upon his resignation.
31. Local government CEOs are appointed to their respective positions pursuant to section 194 of the *Local Government Act 2009* (Qld) (the LG Act). They are required to enter a written contract of employment with the local government and are subject to the terms and conditions expressed therein. The former CEO's contract was extended for four years in November 2023 when he was engaged on the same terms as his previous agreement.
32. A review of the evidence gathered revealed that on 11 April 2024, shortly following the election, the former CEO met with Mr Thompson where an agreement was reached for the former CEO to resign in accordance with the terms of his contract of employment. A Deed of Separation and Release was subsequently prepared by TCC in-house Counsel and signed by the relevant parties. Mr Thompson signed this Deed in his capacity as Mayor.
33. In making his decision, Mr Thompson sought, was provided, and acted in accordance with advice given.
34. Mr Thompson's actions in terminating the employment of the former CEO, including the payment of any relevant severance payments, were found to be within the scope of his lawful authority.
35. Accordingly, the CCC concluded this part of the investigation in November 2024, determining no further action was required. Due to the ongoing investigations, no advice was provided at this time to Mr Thompson or any other party of this decision.
36. Mr Thompson made no submissions with regard to this complaint.



Part Two – Alleged false/misleading representations to voters during Mr Thompson’s electoral campaign

37. On 14 January 2024, Mr Thompson commenced campaigning in the local government elections for the position of Mayor of Townsville. On 30 January 2024, Mr Thompson formally nominated himself by way of approved form to the Electoral Commission Queensland (ECQ), with his nomination validated on 5 February 2024.
38. In support of Mr Thompson’s campaign, he authored, and authorised, the production and use of relevant campaign material, including corflute signs and posters. The corflute signs contained slogans stating, ‘Vote for Mayor’ and included a Quick Response code (QR Code) referring the user to a website www.troythompsonformayor.com.au, a Linktree page.
39. The Linktree page, at that time, included links to Mr Thompson’s email and social media accounts. These website, social media and campaign materials remained current and publicly available for the duration of the election campaign.
40. On 26 January 2024, a series of videos were filmed and subsequently uploaded on Mr Thompson’s social media. The videos depicted Mr Thompson sitting in front of two posters, one of which reads ‘Who is Troy Thompson’ and contains a number of statements/personal descriptors (in a checklist format with a tick next to each), namely:
 - ☒ Proud father and son
 - ☒ Business man
 - ☒ Global traveler [sic]
 - ☒ Soldier
 - ☒ Gas Fitter
 - ☒ Business graduate
 - ☒ Cancer survivor
41. In addition, throughout his Mayoral campaign, Mr Thompson personally made representations about his military service, including in social media posts, emails, videos, media interviews, public forums and on his LinkedIn page. Mr Thompson claimed to have been in the Australian Army for the period 1992–1995, stating he was enlisted as a Signaller.
42. Mr Thompson also made claims on at least three separate occasions during media interviews, in public forums and on his LinkedIn page to have obtained tertiary qualifications, namely a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting and Marketing) from Griffith University and a Bachelor of Science (Occupational Safety and Health Technology/Technician) from Curtin University.
43. Mr Thompson also personally claimed on at least two separate occasions to be a cancer survivor. These claims were also made on his personal descriptors and during a public forum. Following polling day (16 March 2024), Mr Thompson reiterated that he was a Signaller in the Australian Army and had been posted to three expressly identified Signals Commands in Western Australia during his employment.
44. On 27 March 2024, Mr Thompson was declared Mayor of Townsville. He commenced in the role on 28 March 2024⁷ and was formally sworn in on 10 April 2024.



⁷ Pursuant to section 159 of the LG Act.

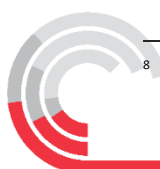
45. Mr Thompson attended the Townsville Anzac Day 2024 ceremony in his role as Mayor wearing only his father's medals. Post the ceremony he engaged with journalists and maintained his earlier claims of having been a Signaller in the Australian Army.
46. On 30 May 2024, Mr Thompson participated in a media interview with the Channel 9 A Current Affair program (the ACA interview), where he rescinded or attempted to clarify his previous statements pertaining to his Army service and his academic qualifications. In an apparent attempt to explain any discrepancies or departures from his earlier statements, Mr Thompson claimed to have suffered over 100 concussions, and identified himself as suffering from epilepsy.
47. Mr Thompson did not rescind his claims to have survived a diagnosis of cancer, rather he vaguely confirmed he was diagnosed with a form of cancer. He supplemented this observation with comments about having undergone surgery and having been advised to get his affairs in order, inferring that the cancer diagnosis he received was life-threatening. Mr Thompson's claims in relation to cancer have varied, but his more expansive commentary has been in relation to suffering from oesophageal cancer.
48. During the investigation, the CCC undertook a comprehensive suite of investigative strategies to verify the statements made by Mr Thompson.
49. Importantly, the investigation was required to obtain, verify and corroborate relevant, reliable and admissible evidence to support conclusions reached and/or to support any potential referral to a prosecuting authority or appropriate entity for disciplinary action.⁸

Defence Force employment

50. During the course of the Mayoral election campaign, on 20 January 2024, Mr Thompson published a post on his Facebook page 'Troy Thompson for Mayor' entitled *My Life in the Army* with an accompanying photo of himself appearing to be in camouflage attire. The post stated:

In 1989, I made the decision to follow in their footsteps and enlist in the army, as a Signaller...I was with: 109 Signals, Karrakatta, Perth; 105 Signals, Fremantle; 152 Signals, Swanbourne.

51. On 21 January 2024, an email was sent from Mr Thompson's campaign email address (info@troythompsonformayor.com.au) to the email of the Townsville Chamber of Commerce, reportedly responding to a request, including a biographical background which stated Mr Thompson was in the Defence Force (Army) from 1992 to 1995 with 105 Signals Squadron – Karrakatta; 109 Signals Squadron – Fremantle and 152 Signals Squadron – Swanbourne.
52. On 22 January 2024, an email was sent from info@troythompsonformayor.com.au to a media outlet containing the same biographical statement as the email to the Townsville Chamber of Commerce, namely that Mr Thompson was in the Defence Force from 1992 to 1995 in the 105, 109 and 152 squadrons.



53. On 9 February 2024, in an interview with the North Queensland Freedom Network and published on online platforms YouTube and Rumble, Mr Thompson stated:

And I spent 5 years in the military in Perth. So I was in Signals in Swanbourne, oh, Karrakatta, Fremantle and SAS Swanbourne.

The interviewer replied:

Nice, which I think is very important in a military town that you-you have, have an understanding of what you know, our soldiers have gone through and what their needs, in our, our town are gonna be....

54. On 2 March 2024, in a recorded presentation to the Magnetic Island Residents and Ratepayers Association meeting, along with other mayoral candidates and a councillor, Mr Thompson stated:

...later in life, ...joined the army, so I was with 109 sigs, 105 sigs and then went to Swanbourne barracks with 152 as a signalman...

55. On 10 March 2024, Mr Thompson acknowledged the importance of military service,⁹ when he published a Facebook advertisement consisting of a video describing his pledge to increase support for the elderly, disabled and defence personnel. He stated:

...Townsville has a huge defence population...you're talking 20,000 people plus...and it's the largest installation in Australia.

56. On 17 March 2024, Mr Thompson participated in an interview with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) News where he stated:

...109 signals squad...was roughly about three years in that particular one...went in as a signalman, got bored so I also took up cooking which was a bad thing...

57. On 19 March 2024, Mr Thompson published a Facebook advertisement stating:

the army I joined 109 sigs as a signals-man in 1989, when I lived in Perth. Then transferred to 105 Sigs, where I also tried my hand at cooking, while still a signals-man, I was bored. Then I shifted to 152 Sigs before leaving for a job as a gasfitter with SECWA.

58. On 25 April 2024, Mr Thompson attended ceremonial proceedings and participated in several interviews with journalists:

- a live radio interview with an ABC journalist, during which he stated:

yes, I was with the um, 109 sigs and also 105 and spent a little bit of a journey over at 152 just as a, I guess a, work with them um under a family member...

Mr Thompson also acknowledged that Townsville was the largest garrison city in Australia.

- an interview with the *Townsville Bulletin*:

Journalist: *Tell me a little about your service*

Mr Thompson: *Yeah it was Army Reserve, so that was it. So, Army Reserve and then we shifted over so 109 I went in as a reservist then I um went over to ahh 152 through a family member spent some time there for a bit of time and then exited through 105 which was, uh, Karrakatta so.*

59. Evidence obtained during the investigation from the Australian Defence Force revealed Mr Thompson:
- enlisted as an Army Reservist from 2 April 1991 to 23 October 1993
 - was attached to the 109 Signal Squadron
 - completed a two-week basic training course and a Basic Cook's Course across a five-month period between July and December 1991
 - transferred to the HQ13 Brigade (Australian Army Catering Corps) on 15 April 1992, however last paraded for duty on 11 February 1992, and
 - did not attend for duty in any capacity from 11 February 1992 until he was discharged on 23 October 1993.
60. Contrary to assertions made by Mr Thompson during the course of his election campaign, the evidence obtained by the CCC revealed he was only enlisted with the Australian Army for a period of two and a half years, was solely a reservist, had never served with the 105 or 152 signals as claimed, and was never a member of the Special Air Service Regiment (SAS) of the Australian Army.
61. On 22 May 2024, Mr Thompson published a Facebook post in which he stated he had received his service dossier from the Department of Defence.
62. In the ACA interview, Mr Thompson made the following comments with respect to his military service, academic qualifications, and cancer survival representations:

Presenter: *...your service history, have you lied?*

Thompson: *No, no, so um I guess the big problem was, and I'll go a bit into that, if I could. Um, I was asked, long ago whether I remember my service number and could people have my service number and those who know me, know I have had multiple concussions, 100 plus and I suffer from epilepsy. That's not an excuse, but what it says is, you're going to forget things from time to time. I actually did, and as soon as I received my report last week, straight away the number came back into my head...In the army, and in the army reserve, it's a part-time job and it wasn't for a long period of time and it was 33 years ago, or just over 33 years ago...*

Presenter: *You claimed during your campaign you enlisted in 1989 and served for five years, is that correct?*

Thompson: *No, so when I, um, and look I honestly, hand on heart thought it was five years...*

Presenter: *You said earlier, you haven't lied. If that's the case, would you at least concede that during your campaign, you embellished the truth?*

Thompson: *Um, look I can't say I can concede that, because I didn't know my service number. I firmly believed up until I received this report, that I'd served five years...I really couldn't remember it.*



63. Mr Thompson also confirmed he was never a full-time member of the Australian Army, noting that he spent two and a half years in the army, with 109 Signals Squadron, and not with the 105 nor 152 SAS Squadrons. In reference to serving in the SAS, Mr Thompson remarked:

I probably did not say it right pre-election, but I certainly spent time with people from the SAS, I'd never purport to be a soldier of the SAS.

64. As to his reference to having epilepsy, this condition had never previously been referenced by Mr Thompson. Investigations revealed Mr Thompson was taken by ambulance to the Townsville Hospital for apparent seizures in 2023 and commenced taking anti-seizure medication in November 2023.
65. There is no evidence Mr Thompson has received specialist treatment for epilepsy. An epilepsy management plan has been endorsed by a general practitioner, who also prescribed anti-seizure medication between November 2023 and October 2024. There is no direct evidence to confirm that Mr Thompson has been diagnosed and/or suffers from epilepsy.

Business graduate

66. On 22 January 2024, Mr Thompson participated in a recorded interview with the Seven Network at his residence where he made the following statement, in the unpublished portion of the interview:

...put myself through university, so I got my business degree....

67. A screenshot of Mr Thompson's LinkedIn page and referred to by the QR codes on his election campaign materials¹⁰ asserted that Mr Thompson had obtained a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting and Marketing) from Griffith University (2000-2005), and a Bachelor of Science (Occupational Safety and Health Technology/Technician) from Curtin University (1990-1993).
68. On 2 March 2024, in a recorded presentation to the Magnetic Island Residents and Ratepayers Association meeting, along with other mayoral candidates and a councillor, Mr Thompson stated:

I studied business, I studied law, and I also studied occupational health management.

69. Contrary to the assertions made by Mr Thompson during his election campaign and on his linked/associated social media profiles, he is not a business graduate and was not awarded the abovementioned tertiary qualifications.
70. Evidence obtained from Griffith University confirmed Mr Thompson has not completed or been awarded a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting and Marketing). Mr Thompson was enrolled at Griffith University in a Bachelor of Commerce degree for one semester in 2006, passing two of the four subjects in which he was enrolled.
71. Evidence obtained from Curtin University confirmed Mr Thompson did not attend or graduate from Curtin University with a Bachelor of Science (Occupational Safety and Health Technology/Technician).
72. In the ACA interview, Mr Thompson acknowledged he never completed the degrees but he 'started them off, but then life changed'. When asked whether he felt claiming that he had those degrees was misleading to voters, Mr Thompson disagreed, stating he had not looked at his LinkedIn page in a long time and had taken them down when he realised they were on his profile.

73. The investigation concluded Mr Thompson does not hold any tertiary academic qualifications beyond some technical certificates.

Cancer survivor

74. On 2 March 2024, in a recorded presentation to the Magnetic Island Residents and Ratepayers Association meeting, Mr Thompson stated:

...as I said and someone commented before, why would you say you're a cancer survivor? Because I think, what that says to me, and my mum has been through a lot of battles, is, that I'm a fighter... I had an end date, so back in 2021, in January, they told me that's it, get your affairs in order...

75. Mr Thompson's cancer claims have varied; however, his more expansive commentary has been in relation to suffering from oesophageal cancer. In the published ACA interview, Mr Thompson made the following comments with respect to his cancer survival representations:

Yeah look I, the, the hardest thing was and, and people saw me at my sickest here. Um I'd had stomach surgery, oesophageal surg-surgery, um and I think probably at nine months I lived off a tube. So I'd, I'd really thinned out and it, what it did do and I went down to ah Brisbane and the one thing that was clear, my Mum came with me at the time, um I was, I was by myself pretty much at that stage, no longer married and um my son was down there and I, i- it was, it scared, frightened the hell out of me. It just absolutely frightened the hell out of me and I guess that to me was, you know, what are you gonna do with yourself, because I was told to get my affairs in order. Things weren't well, I wasn't healthy, um and th-the surgery could be such a shock to your system, that um you know there were risks. No one in Townsville would do the surgery ..."

"...that's probably one of the things that has been a key driver, when people say to me how sick they were...you get a good understanding of your community and I think that's what voted me in, people said he's, he's a bit hodge podge..."

76. One witness interviewed by the CCC recalled a Facebook post made some years earlier (approximately 2019) where Mr Thompson reportedly stated he was suffering from oesophageal cancer. This witness also recalled that a relative of Mr Thompson's commented on the post challenging this assertion and noting that Mr Thompson was instead having complications from gastric band/lap band surgery and encouraged Mr Thompson to stop telling people he had cancer.
77. The same witness reported that Mr Thompson had otherwise informed them on various occasions that he was suffering from cancer, allegedly stating in a message on Facebook in May 2019 that he 'had ¼ liver, 90% stomach, lining and oesophagus removed. Stage 2B cancer'. These reported Facebook posts have not been able to be independently verified or confirmed as having been made by Mr Thompson.
78. The CCC obtained copies of Mr Thompson's medical records from three medical centres and two hospitals, none of which record a diagnosis of oesophageal cancer or treatment for the same beyond Mr Thompson's own self-reports when providing his medical history. In this regard, records show that Mr Thompson self-reported, on 1 April 2019, that his medical history included bowel cancer, gastric band surgery and chemotherapy treatment.



79. Mr Thompson's medical records, including Medicare and pharmaceutical benefits records/claims, were analysed by investigators throughout the course of the investigation. A comprehensive review of these records has failed to identify any recent medical history of Mr Thompson being diagnosed or treated for oesophageal cancer.
80. The records show that Mr Thompson had post-gastric sleeve complications which potentially account for any reference to his stomach and the associated comments to ensure his affairs were in order.
81. Medical records examined by the CCC identified Mr Thompson was referred to a medical practitioner at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH) in December 2020 for surgery related to a post-gastric sleeve complication causing severe reflux.
82. On 13 January 2021, Mr Thompson self-reported to a medical practitioner that he was to undergo high-risk surgery in Brisbane. Mr Thompson further reported that he had been asked to complete a will, would be required to stay in hospital for two months in Brisbane, then another month in Townsville University Hospital and would be in an induced coma for five days following surgery.
83. Evidence obtained and reviewed by the CCC shows Mr Thompson was diagnosed and treated for one form of cancer, a squamous cell carcinoma (not melanoma). The records note Mr Thompson self-reported the removal of several 'melanomas', with confirmation received that Mr Thompson had malignant skin lesions removed, including one on his chin in June 2020.
84. The medical records obtained by the CCC show Mr Thompson has had no melanomas diagnosed or treated in the period April 2019 to November 2024.
85. The CCC has also reviewed Mr Thompson's Medicare and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme records from 1 August 2019 to 25 November 2024. No specialist oncologist or known cancer medications are listed in these records.
86. Mr Thompson did not publicly rescind his claims that he has survived a diagnosis of cancer.

Conclusion

87. All relevant evidence obtained in relation to this part of the investigation was referred to the DPP for consideration and advice on 20 March 2025, with privileged legal advice provided by the DPP on 17 April 2025.
88. The CCC may only commence proceedings if the DPP has given written advice that the person should be prosecuted with a corruption offence.
89. Mr Thompson *'denies committing any kind of misconduct or criminal offence and respectfully declines to provide a response in circumstances where there is the prospect of future criminal proceedings'*.



Part Three – Alleged improper conduct directed towards Councillors

90. Part three of the investigation relates to the conduct Mr Thompson directed towards other Councillors, which was alleged to be harassing, bullying, intimidatory and threatening.
91. On 2 September 2024, in the context of a publicly acrimonious relationship with the then Acting CEO of the TCC, Mr Thompson posted on his official *Mayor Troy Thompson* Facebook page demanding the Acting CEO's application be excluded from prospective candidates in the recruitment process for a permanent CEO.
92. At 3:11 pm on the same date, Mr Thompson sent an email to all TCC Councillors with the subject line *Letter to Councillors – Private & Confidential – Without Prejudice*. The email attached a draft media release and correspondence titled *Request for Cooperation and Warning of Potential Council Dissolution* with the letter relevantly stating:

I am writing to address the ongoing efforts by certain councillors to undermine my position as Mayor and to seek a resolution that will allow us to work together effectively for the benefit of the Townsville community.

....

Under the Local Government Act, the Minister can dissolve a local government if the minister reasonably believes that the local government is incapable of performing its responsibilities. It is very clear that the councillors are not wanting this current council to operate properly and is the case that this current council is close to being incapable of performing its responsibilities.

93. Mr Thompson went on to list the following 13 items he requested the Councillors undertake, namely:
1. Engage in regular and transparent communication with the Mayor.
 2. Participate in collaborative decision-making processes and work together to find common ground.
 3. Acknowledge and respect the Mayor's authority and leadership role.
 4. Identify and prioritise common goals that benefit the community.
 5. Provide constructive feedback and suggestions to the Mayor.
 6. Support the Mayor's initiatives that align with the council's goals and the community's needs.
 7. Build trust through consistent and reliable actions.
 8. Address conflicts and disagreements through mediation and dialogue.
 9. Ensure transparency and accountability in all actions and decisions.
 10. Engage with the community to understand their needs and concerns.
 11. Support a motion for a councillor advisor.
 12. Cease all efforts to undermine the mayor; and
 13. Stop supporting the Acting CEO in his unlawful actions.



94. The correspondence went on to observe that if Councillors:

continue to oppose my leadership and obstruct the progress of our city, I will have no choice but to request the Minister for Local Government to exercise her right under Section 123 of the Local Government Act to dissolve the council.

95. Mr Thompson's correspondence gave councillors until 5:00pm on 3 September 2024 to send a letter of assurance to Mr Thompson, signed by each Councillor, outlining they will '*comply with the terms in my letter and cease all undermining and attacks...*'. The correspondence reiterated that failure to receive the letter of assurance would cause Mr Thompson to seek the dissolution of Council.

96. Mr Thompson advised Councillors a draft media release was prepared in the event the letter of assurance was not received from them. The '*key elements*' of this draft media release included:

- *The immediate cessation of all undermining and attack of my office.*
- *Immediately ceasing the directing of council staff.*
- *Ensuring my office is able to appoint a councillor advisor to ensure the office remains compliant.*
- *Ensuring councillors demand that the Acting CEO withdraws his application for the permanent CEO role after his lies to the media last week and his treatment of the Mayor.*
- *The withdrawal of the 05 June resolutions in full.*
- *The withdrawal of the proposed amendments to the Code of Meeting Practice.*

97. The draft media release did not clarify whether these were matters to be addressed in the letter of assurance from Councillors, however a reasonable inference was that they were further demands and expectations Mr Thompson had of Councillors.

98. The draft media release provided quotes from Mr Thompson addressing what he described as undermining by Councillors and a call for Ministerial intervention, and repeatedly stated Mr Thompson would be requesting the Minister for Local Government exercise her right to dissolve the council.

99. The CCC undertook an investigation into the allegations to determine the origins of the relevant evidence and assess whether any grounds for criminal or disciplinary proceedings existed.

100. While the CCC determined not to refer the matter to a prosecuting authority, all information relevant to a simultaneous investigation being conducted by the Office of the Independent Assessor was provided to that agency¹¹ for consideration, assessment and use in performing its functions, duties and responsibilities.

101. Mr Thompson '*denies committing any kind of misconduct or criminal offence and respectfully declines to provide a response in circumstances where there is the prospect of future criminal proceedings*'.

¹¹ Pursuant to the CC Act, section 60(2).

Part Four – Disclosure of confidential/commercially sensitive information

102. On 10 May 2024, the CCC received a complaint alleging that Mr Thompson was providing confidential information, or other material, obtained during his official duties as Mayor of Townsville to several persons.
103. The CCC undertook an investigation into the allegations including interviewing or obtaining statements from relevant witnesses and the execution of several search warrants on the premises of Mr Thompson and others suspected of receiving information.
104. The investigation of this allegation resulted in the seizure of 21 electronic devices from numerous parties, containing almost 7 million electronic records, including 8741 WhatsApp encrypted messages exchanged between Mr Thompson and another party (further referred to in this report as his advisor). In addition, the CCC seized 750 pages of hardcopy materials from Mr Thompson and the advisor (including printed emails and other material apparently obtained from or belonging to the TCC in the possession of the advisor).
105. The investigation identified the identity of the advisor, who has no official role with the TCC. This person was not employed by the TCC at the time of the alleged conduct and was not authorised by any person in authority within the TCC, other than Mr Thompson, to receive any confidential information.
106. The CCC investigation verified WhatsApp accounts belonging to Mr Thompson and the advisor. The evidence demonstrated that Mr Thompson disclosed confidential/commercially sensitive information to the advisor, including but not limited to, the following documents:
 - an incoming councillor brief issued to Mr Thompson
 - the TCC draft Capital Plan
 - the TCC Summary of Budget Exclusions
 - the TCC Project Briefing Paper regarding the Haughton Pipeline
 - an Executive/Mayoral briefing note containing information on TCC's capital facility
 - a confidential modelling document for paid parking
 - documents relating to the recruitment of the interim Chief Executive Officer including contract documents, and
 - documents relating to the recruitment for the permanent role of the Chief Executive Officer.

Statutory provisions relating to appointment of an advisor

107. Section 277G and schedule 4A of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* relevantly provides the Council may approve up to three councillor advisors for the Mayor, while section 197A of the *Local Government Act 2009* relevantly provides that councils may, by resolution, allow a councillor to appoint one or more appropriately qualified persons, up to the permissible number, to assist the councillor in performing their responsibilities under the LG Act.
108. Examples of assistance include administrative support, coordinating media activities, event management functions, policy development and office management.



109. The councillor must not appoint a close associate of the councillor as a councillor advisor.¹²
110. Upon the appointment of a councillor advisor, the councillor advisor must enter a written contract of employment with the local government.¹³ Such employment contract must provide for the councillor advisor's conditions of employment, functions and key responsibilities, a requirement that the councillor advisor comply with the councillor advisor code of conduct made by the Minister under section 197C and when disciplinary action may be taken, and the types of disciplinary action that may be taken, against the councillor advisor.¹⁴
111. Relevantly, a Notice of Motion was prepared for Council consideration by in-house Counsel of the TCC on 12 April 2024, with various options for Council to approve the appointment of either 3, 2, 1 or zero councillor advisors for the Mayor. This motion was later voted against by Councillors on 1 May 2024.
112. A further Notice of Motion was moved by Mr Thompson in the TCC Ordinary Meeting 28 August 2024, in the following terms:

Notice of Motion

- a) *The Mayor, Councillor Troy Thompson - Appointment of One Councillor advisor to the Office of the Mayor*

The residents and the community deserve a Mayor that has appropriate and proper advisory support. In the previous council, Mayor Hill had 3 councillor advisors to ensure the residents were properly served by their Mayor. Currently there are three vacancies for councillor advisor in the Mayor's office. I propose to appoint one councillor advisor under one of the vacant positions. The residents and the community deserve to have one councillor advisor supporting their Mayor in council.

Therefore, that [sic] I seek your endorsement for the appointment and addition to the budget of one councillor advisor in accordance with section 197A of the Local Government Act, and section 277G of the Local Government Regulation.

Proposed Motion

That council endorse for the appointment and addition to the budget of one councillor advisor in accordance with section 197A of the Local Government Act, and Section 277G of the Local Government Regulation.

113. The Townsville City Councillors voted against the motion.

Investigation into the relationship between Mr Thompson and the advisor

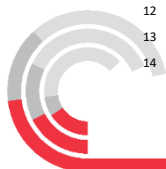
114. The investigation revealed that on an unknown date prior to 20 February 2024, Mr Thompson met the advisor. Their first identifiable and confirmed interaction was identified as having occurred on 20 February 2024 when the advisor sent Mr Thompson a message on Facebook Messenger which read:

Troy, let me know if you want me to do your campaign footage and shorts and photos...

¹² LG Act, section 197A(2).

¹³ LG Act, section 197A(3).

¹⁴ LG Act, section 197A(4).



115. In the period between 19 July 2024 and 1 October 2024, Mr Thompson paid the advisor sums of monies on at least 23 occasions, totalling at least \$5,300. The express reasons for these payments were not identified in the messages, aside from one message on 19 July 2024 where the advisor stated:

...if you ever wanted to send me any \$\$ because we aren't catching up much or it's not easy to often go get cash out, I'm happy if you just transfer me funds from time to time to help me keep going...

116. The investigation revealed that Mr Thompson and the advisor exchanged 8741 WhatsApp messages between 6 June 2024 and 18 October 2024, with 1052 messages being identified during the investigation as being of interest and relevant to the allegations subject of complaint. An additional 32 other occasions were identified where Mr Thompson communicated confidential internal TCC emails to the advisor, either via WhatsApp or forwarding the emails to the advisor from his personal email address.

117. Throughout this period, the advisor appeared to perform a quasi-personal advisory role to Mr Thompson including drafting correspondence, emails, media releases and generally providing advice to Mr Thompson. Relevant examples of the messages exchanged between Mr Thompson and the advisor are as follows:

- On 6 June 2024 at 2:16 pm the advisor sent Mr Thompson the following message:

Can you please forward emails sent to you from the CEO and Lawyers to [email address supplied]. I will review them for issues that can form the basis of an OIA complaint

followed by another message:

Also, please do not mention me to anyone, That's important.

- On 10 June 2024, at 12:53 pm, the advisor sent draft correspondence to Mr Thompson addressed to the CEO and the Deputy Mayor, complaining of leaked emails and alleged misconduct by the CEO/Councillors. The drafted correspondence to the Acting CEO titled *Re: MISCONDUCT BY THE CEO/COUNCILLORS* accused the CEO of making false allegations against Mr. Thompson.

The advisor also stated:

what that would do as well, would be to know the CEO was the only one to receive that email, and that when press are in attendance that morning, you can cause an enquiry into the CEO for leaking that email.

- On 21 June 2024, following an exchange about the CEO, the advisor sent Mr Thompson draft correspondence with the message 'Joe Joe Joe. What a silly man', and then another message 'Shoooooot that back to the wanker'.
- On occasions, the advisor requested Mr Thompson provide him with relevant confidential TCC documents. For example, on 25 June 2024 at 9:49am, the advisor sent Mr Thompson the following message:

Given your access to the budget, can you send me details on the key elements of the budget that are open for attack in the media....like the pipeline blow out, and things like meters for parking.



118. However, a review of the exchanged messages revealed most disclosures were initiated by Mr Thompson.

- On 29 August 2024, Mr Thompson messaged the advisor asking:

Is there any ability to give a direction for the CEO to resign and withdraw his application, based on the numerous complaints against him. We could cc [redacted], or does it not stack up as a direction.

- On 2 September 2024 at 10:01 am, the advisor sent Mr Thompson the draft media release and letter to Councillors and the following exchange occurred:

Advisor: *Once satisfied, these two should be emailed to councillors.*

Thompson: *If we give them the draft media release, it will be countered first.*

Advisor: *with what*

Providing the draft is the correct method used in this situation. Holding things close to the chest doesn't work in this situation.

They can't counter that media release. It is damning.

Thompson: *They will make other allegations though*

Advisor: *so*

Thompson: *I agree with it all, it's the best way forward*

Advisor: *hold up with it though. I have another release in relation [sic] to Joe*

Thompson: *Ok, I won't do anything until you say fire away.*

Advisor: *then we can discuss the best way forward.
I think we kick Joe in the balls, then punch the councillors in the guts a little later on, and see how they cope.*

- On 2 September 2024 at 2:22 pm, the advisor and Mr Thompson exchange the following messages:

Advisor: *I think it is time to send the councillors the letters*

Thompson: *Just finishing a meeting. To all councillors only?*

Advisor: *yes*

...

Thompson: *Should we send a media release, embargoed for tomorrow, that way it has be withheld.... Tge [sic] 3/09 one*

...

Advisor: *nope... that media release can not go out unless councillors decide to fight you*

...

Advisor: *that is essentially a dummy media release...that becomes real after they decide to fuck with you...their reply to the letter will dictate how fucked they become...I think they are probably having kittens about now...making some real life choices*

...



Advisor: *So I would expect they will try and take some sort of action against you...As a last ditch effort*
...

Advisor: *[talking about the Acting CEO's application for permanent CEO]:*
You would hope that todays post will do enough to cause issues with his recruitment

Advisor: *Yeah well I can safely say we have done everything in our power to stop it*

119. Between 6 June 2024 and 20 October 2024, exchanges between Mr Thompson and the advisor were predominately related to council business, however as they were exchanged by way of the encrypted WhatsApp messaging app, or via personal email addresses, none of these messages currently form part of the existing public records maintained by the TCC.
120. Section 14 of the *Public Records Act 2023* provides that a public authority (including local governments¹⁵) must ensure its public records are made in a way that accurately shows the actions or decisions of the authority; and the matters that inform or contextualise the actions or decisions of the authority. The public authority must keep the public records made by the authority.
121. A public record includes information recorded on, in or by using any medium that is made, received or kept in the course of another public authority carrying out activities for a purpose of the authority, or the exercise of its statutory, administrative or other public responsibilities which evidences the activities, affairs or business of the authority. It also includes any information connected to a public record to identify or contextualise the record.¹⁶
122. The evidence obtained by the investigation shows that the advisor engaged by Mr Thompson was assisting him in performing his responsibilities under the LG Act, as well performing other responsibilities as directed by Mr Thompson from time to time.
123. There is no evidence of any written contract of employment between the advisor and the TCC, or that any such employment arrangement exists between Mr Thompson and the advisor setting out the conditions of employment, functions and key responsibilities, a requirement that the advisor comply with the councillor advisor code of conduct, whether disciplinary action may be taken and/or the types of disciplinary action that may be taken against the advisor.
124. Additionally, no evidence has been identified that the TCC was made aware of the personal arrangements made between Mr Thompson and the advisor for him to provide such services in exchange for payment.

Confidentiality

125. Based on the evidence obtained during this investigation, Mr Thompson was expressly aware of his obligations of confidentiality (beyond the express general training provided to all incoming Councillors). Further, the messages between him and the advisor actively discuss steps taken to circumvent the monitoring of the official email accounts on the TCC computer system.
126. Aside from the disclosures listed above, CCC investigators have identified a further 32 occasions where Mr Thompson disseminated confidential council emails and information to the advisor, using either his encrypted WhatsApp account or his personal email address.

¹⁵ *Public Records Act 2023*, section 8(1)(l).

¹⁶ *Public Records Act 2023*, section 9(1)(b).



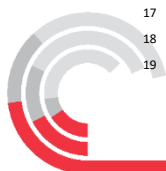
Conclusion

127. All relevant evidence obtained in relation to this part of the investigation was referred to the DPP for consideration and advice¹⁷ on 15 July 2025. Privileged legal advice¹⁸ was provided to the CCC by the DPP on 24 September 2025.
128. The CCC further consulted with the DPP on 1 October 2025 to discuss the relevant evidence, the privileged legal advice and the conclusions reached therein.
129. The CCC may only commence proceedings if the DPP has given written advice that the person should be prosecuted with a corruption offence.¹⁹
130. Mr Thompson *'denies committing any kind of misconduct or criminal offence and respectfully declines to provide a response in circumstances where there is the prospect of future criminal proceedings'*.

¹⁷ Pursuant to the CCC's obligations under section 49B.

¹⁸ In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding with the DPP – now reflected in the CC Act, section 49F.

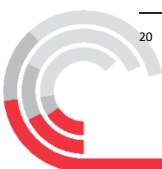
¹⁹ In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding with the DPP – now reflected in the CC Act, section 49B(5).



Integrity in local government

131. Participation in local, state and federal elections is compulsory for all Australians. The requirement for all Australians to participate in elections has been enshrined in law in Australia since 1924 and is intended to ensure each level of government truly represents the will of the Australian people and make laws in the interest of all Australians.
132. When it comes to electoral processes, the Electoral Commission Queensland (ECQ) is the expert and it endeavours to ensure it always provides factual, open information. However, under the *Electoral Act 1992*, the ECQ is not responsible for regulating truth in political communication and advertising.
133. Misinformation (false or inaccurate information that is spread unintentionally) and disinformation (false information deliberately intended to mislead) are corrosive to the democratic process. Misinformation and disinformation can cause voters to doubt the integrity of the electoral system, or to vote based on an understanding of the facts which simply isn't true.
134. Unlike state and federal elections, which are primarily dominated by party-based nominations and usually subject to internal party vetting and nomination processes, local government elections are often dominated by independent candidates. In the case of local governments, the relationship between the voting public and elected officials is particularly strong, due to their closer proximity, making the demands for access to accurate and reliable information much stronger especially given the growing demand for improved transparency.
135. Consequently, voters must undertake their own enquiries and are required to rely upon publicly available information, or representations made by electoral candidates. The regulation of truth in political communication and advertising largely rests with the respective candidates. The assessment of the truth of statements made by political parties and candidates is a responsibility that largely falls to individual voters.
136. It is imperative that local governments attract and secure the services of candidates with diverse backgrounds and who possess a wide range of knowledge, skills and experience. While formal qualifications are not a requirement for the role, the ECQ lists a range of desirable attributes for a person seeking election to local government:
 - an active interest in community issues
 - good communication skills and the ability to engage with a range of people
 - good problem solving and negotiation skills
 - motivation to work with others to achieve results
 - leadership skills
 - business and financial management skills, and
 - a willingness to do the right thing if faced with a conflict of interest between the public interest and a personal interest.²⁰

²⁰ Electoral Commission of Queensland's Fact sheet 1: *Eligibility to become a candidate in local government elections* (February 2024) PDF available online at: www.ecq.qld.gov.au/election-participants/handbooks,-fact-sheets-and-forms.



137. These are in addition to mandatory statutory eligibility requirements:²¹

- be an adult Australian citizen (including an Australian citizen who holds dual citizenship with another country).
- be enrolled on the Queensland electoral roll and reside in the local government area for which they are nominating.
- not be disqualified from being a councillor because of a conviction for any one of the following types of offences:
 - a treason offence
 - an electoral offence
 - a bribery offence
 - an integrity or serious integrity offence; and
- not subject to other circumstances including:
 - i. *having an undischarged bankruptcy*
 - ii. *being on probation, in prison, on parole or serving a suspended sentence*
 - iii. *being a member of a state or federal parliament or a councillor of a local government of another state.*

138. These obligations existed and applied to the electoral campaign subject of this investigation. However, where persons have been found guilty of (or plead guilty to) offences other than a disqualifying offence, there is no requirement for convictions for any other offences, or for any discharged bankruptcy, to be disclosed by candidates.

Pre-election conduct

139. There is very clear potential for misinformation or disinformation put forward by candidates in an election to have a significant bearing on the community's assessment of their personal characteristics and their suitability for the role being sought. Despite this, there is presently no legislative or other framework requiring candidates to provide certified copies of supporting documents or sworn statements certifying the accuracy of claims made during an election. While there are existing systems which allow the public to verify university qualifications, there is no formalised mechanism/framework requiring candidates to disclose information that would enable the public to do so (i.e. to verify a qualification, a date of birth is required).

140. Section 182(2) of the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011* creates an offence for a person, for the purpose of affecting the election of a candidate, to knowingly publish a false statement of fact about the personal character or conduct of the candidate.

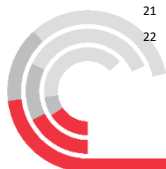
141. However, there is ambiguity as to whether this offence only applies to a person making false or misleading claims about another person, namely a candidate, or whether the offence also applies to a candidate making false representations about themselves.

142. The offence, and maximum penalty available upon conviction, arguably fails to reflect the significant consequences that false and misleading statements about candidates may have on elections, or act as sufficient deterrence for such conduct.

143. Additionally, the time for the commencement of a prosecution for such an offence is limited to 12 months from the making of the false statements of fact or representation/s, with the maximum penalty for such an offence being 40 penalty units.²²

²¹ As set out in the *Local Government Act 2009*, the *City of Brisbane Act 2010*, and the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011*.

²² The penalty unit value in Queensland is \$166.90 (current from 1 July 2025) which presently equates to a maximum fine of \$6676 at the time of this report.



Post-election conduct

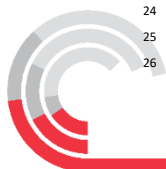
144. It is an offence for a person who is, or has been, a councillor to use information that was acquired as a councillor²³, however it must be demonstrated that the release of information was intended to gain, directly or indirectly, a financial advantage for the person or someone else or otherwise cause detriment to the local government. Otherwise, the councillor may only potentially be subject to disciplinary action (if they remain a councillor).
145. While the current system regulates the appointment and provision of advisors to councillors, the current regulatory framework fails to adequately address the significant corruption risks associated with the engagement of advisors by councillors who are independent of and unknown to Council.
146. It is acknowledged that the use of advisors by governments and individual politicians at all levels is a common and appropriate feature of the Australian political landscape. However, the personal engagement of an advisor, who may have a prior personal association with the councillor; who is not vetted appropriately prior to appointment; who is not subject to regulation about the nature of the functions and duties of the position; and is not subject to any relevant codes of conduct and/or disciplinary processes poses a corruption risk. That is particularly so when the advisor's activities involve engaging with disclosed sensitive and confidential public records.
147. These risks are further heightened when the relationship is conducted in a clandestine manner, the financial arrangements are ambiguous and the council is unaware of the existence of the advisor and unable to regulate or control any potential conflicts of interest that may arise, particularly in the provision of information to the advisor which can potentially be used for personal gain or advantage.
148. At present, conduct of a candidate does not constitute a *conduct breach*²⁴ or *misconduct*.²⁵ Likewise, where a Councillor ceases to hold office, there is presently no availability for the Office of the Independent Assessor to investigate or refer the person to the Councillor Conduct Tribunal.
149. Unlike the public sector, there is presently no capability for the Conduct Tribunal or the Minister to make a declaration that they would have recommended dismissal had it not been for the cessation of the councillor's appointment, whether by resignation or otherwise. Only where a councillor, within 12 months after the office is vacated, is elected or appointed as a councillor for a new term of office can the disciplinary investigation and/or processes be resumed.²⁶

²³ LG Act, section 171.

²⁴ LG Act, section 150K.

²⁵ LG Act, section 150L.

²⁶ LG Act, section 150M.



Recommendations

150. It is recommended that the Government undertake a detailed review of the relevant electoral and local government legislation²⁷ to identify areas for reform arising from the matters set out in this report. Those include:

- a) Introducing a mechanism by which candidates may declare qualifications and employment history on which they will rely in an electoral campaign, with an attendant sanction for providing false information;
- b) Reviewing s182(2) of the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011* to clarify whether it is intended to capture false or misleading statements made by the candidate about themselves;
- c) Considering whether any further regulation is required in relation to the engagement by individual elected officials of private advisors, and whether disclosure of council information to such advisors should be regulated or prohibited;
- d) Considering the need for legislative reform to align the local government sector with the public sector with regard to post-separation disciplinary processes and/or declarations.

²⁷ At least the *Local Government Act 2009* and the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011*.



Annexure 1

Submission from Mr Thompson's legal representatives.

GUEST LAWYERS

OUR REF: [REDACTED]
YOUR REF: [REDACTED]

19 November 2025

[REDACTED]
Director, Corruption Legal
Crime and Corruption Commission
North Tower Green Square
Level 2/515 St Pauls Terrace
FORTITUDE VALLEY Q 4006

BY EMAIL: [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

RE: TROY JOSEPH THOMPSON – INVESTIGATION MURRAY

We act for Mr Thompson.

We note your correspondence dated 8 October 2025 enclosing extracts of the draft report the Commission is considering publishing in accordance with section 69 of the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* (Qld). We note these extracts contain potentially adverse comments with respect to our client.

We provide the following response in this regard.

With respect to Part One – Termination of, and severance payment made to, the former Townsville City Council Chief Executive Officer (CEO), our client does not wish to provide any response to this portion of the draft report considering the Commission's findings are that:

- Mr Thompson sought, was provided, and acted in accordance with advice given;
- Mr Thompson's actions were found to be within the scope of his lawful authority; and
- No further action was required on behalf of the Commission.

With respect to Part Two – Alleged False/Misleading representations to voters during Thompson's electoral campaign, Mr Thompson denies committing any kind of misconduct or criminal offence and respectfully declines to provide a response in circumstances where there is the prospect of future criminal proceedings.

With respect to Part Three – Alleged improper conduct of Thompson directed to TCC Councillors following his appointment as Mayor, Mr Thompson denies committing any kind of misconduct or

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criminal offence. Despite the Commission determining not to refer this matter to any prosecuting authority, Mr Thompson respectfully declines to provide a response in circumstances where there is the prospect of future criminal proceedings.

With respect to Part Four – Alleged unlawful/improper disclosure of confidential/commercially sensitive TCC documents and/or information to third parties, Mr Thompson denies committing any kind of misconduct or criminal offence and respectfully declines to provide a response in circumstances where there is the prospect of future criminal proceedings.

Should you have any queries, please feel free to contact our office on (07) 3221 3007.

Yours faithfully
GUEST LAWYERS

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

Solicitor

Email: [Redacted email address]



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Crime and Corruption Commission

QUEENSLAND

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- ✉ Crime and Corruption Commission
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