



MEDIA STATEMENT

CCC investigation results in 18 months jail for contractor

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A contractor who paid more than \$133,000 to a former City of Stirling building coordinator has been sentenced to 18 months jail after pleading guilty to a charge of corruption in the District Court following a Corruption and Crime Commission investigation.

Michael Lewis Carroll, 61, of Sorrento, received \$1.4 million in contracts for maintenance work from the council some of which the court was told were genuine and others fictitious.

Mr Carroll's lawyer, Ms Patti Chong, said the former building coordinator told her client to submit false invoices if he wanted to continue getting work from the council.

Judge Simon Stone acknowledged that Carroll had pleaded guilty and repaid \$50,000 to the council but that the offences were committed over a four-year period and were too serious for a suspended sentence.

Mr Carroll, who was sentenced in late November, will be eligible for parole in nine months.

A total of six people have been charged with 25 offences in relation to the ongoing Commission investigation.

One person pleaded guilty to a corruption charge and was sentenced to 18 months, suspended for two years, and fined \$7,500. Another pleaded guilty to a corruption charge and is awaiting sentence.

Two others have pleaded not guilty – one to three corruption charges and one false testimony charge, the other to seven corruption charges.

Lawyer Trevor Howard Brickhill, 47, of Mt Pleasant, who represented the former building coordinator at an earlier City of Stirling disciplinary hearing, has pleaded not guilty to 11 charges, including giving false evidence at the Commission's public hearing.

The name of the former City of Stirling building coordinator is suppressed.

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