

MEDIA RELEASE

5 November 2018

CCC completes oversight of Wiluna investigation

The Corruption and Crime Commission has considered the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' *Report of the Inquiry into the Shire of Wiluna* and supports the conclusions detailed in the Department's inquiry findings.

The Commission and Department commenced a cooperative investigation in December 2016 into serious misconduct in the Shire of Wiluna and jointly used their powers to obtain information and documents relevant to the investigation.

In early 2017 the Director General of the Department endorsed an inquiry pursuant to Part 8 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and appointed Department investigators. The Department then continued inquiries with the Commission stepping back to take an active monitoring role.

As the cooperative investigation progressed, matters were identified that raised questions as to the management and governance of the Shire of Wiluna. These matters did not constitute serious misconduct necessary to enliven the Commission's jurisdiction. Accordingly, by mid-2017 the Commission formally handed the investigation back to the Department.

The Department concluded that there was no corruption or serious misconduct but rather incompetence and mismanagement on the part of elected members and staff as a result of a lack of understanding of their obligations.

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