



MEDIA STATEMENT

CCC report refutes false claims

5 November 2014

The Corruption and Crime Commission today took the rare step of tabling a report in the Western Australian Parliament to refute a series of false and damaging claims made against it in recent weeks.

Acting CCC Commissioner Neil Douglas said the reputation of the Commission had been damaged by the claims, which included an extraordinary and false suggestion that it sought to "thwart" and delay a police investigation into misconduct by a small group of former officers.

"I am extremely concerned that the Commission, its 140-plus current officers who perform a very difficult role, and the former CCC Commissioner, Roger Macknay QC, a man of the highest integrity, have been falsely impugned by these claims," Mr Douglas said.

"I am especially concerned that the false claims, which have been extensively reported, may affect the Commission's capacity to carry out its principal function, which is to improve integrity in the public sector.

"When I read the claims that were attributed to the Parliamentary Inspector for the CCC, I was so alarmed I commenced a detailed analysis of all of the actions and decisions by the Commission from the moment it became aware last year that a small group of its former officers may have engaged in misconduct.

"That included examining the investigation that was immediately launched by the Commission, the action it took against the officers involved, all correspondence between the CCC and the Parliamentary Inspector and with the police on those matters and every aspect of our conduct after the Inspector also referred the allegations to police to investigate.

"I can say with certainty that the Commission acted with absolute integrity at all times and did not seek to thwart or delay anything.

"It fully cooperated with the police investigation and did everything in its power to assist police despite the significant legal constraints imposed on us by our legislation and despite the obvious issues associated with police being asked to investigate officers in an agency that is responsible for investigating police.

"I hope the report I have tabled today will alleviate public concern and demonstrate that in dealing with these matters the Commission applied the very high standards that the public rightly expects."

Mr Douglas said that as a result of the Commission's own investigation into misconduct by former staff, three officers were dismissed, two officers resigned and a line manager did not have his contract renewed.

"The Commission also itself determined that criminal conduct may have occurred and recommended to the Parliamentary Inspector that a brief of evidence be sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions. This was before the matter was even referred to police by the Parliamentary Inspector," Mr Douglas said.

"Significant changes were also made to the staffing, management and procedures within the unit involved to apply stringent new accountability measures.

"Our response was swift and uncompromising and the former Commissioner's efforts to assist the subsequent police inquiry were exemplary. There is no basis for the Commission and its officers to now be tarnished by false claims about the way it responded."

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