



MEDIA RELEASE

16 December 2016

Commission recommends prosecution of former Koorda Shire Councillor

A Corruption and Crime Commission report presented to State Parliament today recommends criminal proceedings be taken against a former Koorda Shire Councillor and Department of Transport licensing examiner, Mr Gregory Briotti.

A decision whether he will be prosecuted is entirely a matter for the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Mr Briotti gave evidence to the Commission that he received payments to pass people for driving assessments they had not undertaken. He estimated the payments received were about \$50,000. This is in addition to the fees of more than \$680,000 he received from the Department of Transport.

The Commission also formed an opinion of serious misconduct against a Shire of Koorda employee, and an opinion of misconduct against a Shire of Dowerin employee.

The Commission's Report on Corruption in Respect of Driver Licence Applications details how the two women assisted Mr Briotti by processing the applications through the Department of Transport's Transport Executive and Licensing Information System (TRELIS). They entered details into TRELIS for the improper purpose of assisting Mr Briotti, knowing the details were false.

The risk to human safety in allowing a person who is not qualified to operate a particular class of vehicle is obvious. Public officers working for local government ignored that risk simply to help out Mr Briotti. In ignoring that risk, the two public officers corrupted the Department of Transport system with false information and it cost the Department of Transport an estimated \$200,000 to recall licences and retest individuals.

The Commission accepts that neither woman received any bribe. However, every public officer owes a duty of fidelity and honesty to their employer. The Report is a reminder that, faced with a situation that looks wrong, a public officer must say “no”.

ENDS

Please note: Vision made available during the public hearings is again available as part of this statement.

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