



MEDIA RELEASE

24 January 2017

COMMISSION'S REPORT LEADS TO TIGHTER CONTROLS AND SAFER ROADS

The Commission's *Report on the Activities of Certain Vehicle Examiners Contracted by the Department of Transport*, tabled today in Parliament, details the behaviour of three private sector vehicle examiners and how they were corruptly involved in passing hundreds of different vehicles without an examiner having inspected them, falsifying records as part of the process.

This serious misconduct compromised the state-wide regulatory system that links to the National Vehicle Examination and Licencing Database, and which then opened the potential risk to road safety and consumers who purchased vehicles without examination. The report details an example where a consumer who bought a vehicle was forced to undertake major repairs to fix 27 defects.

Following a cooperative investigation with the Department of Transport and Department of Commerce, the Commission formed an opinion that all three engaged in serious misconduct. In particular, it forms the view that:

- Mr Troy Pintabona engaged in serious misconduct corruptly using his position to benefit himself by taking bribes and by passing vehicles that should not have been assessed as roadworthy;
- Mr Alfonso Berardis engaged in corruption by receiving bribes; and
- Mr Tiziano Dionisio engaged in corrupt activities by purporting to inspect vehicles and enter details into the system without having seen them, and passing vehicles for a fee, or bribe.

The Commission's Report also details the involvement and assistance of private sector 'partners in corruption' – licensed motor vehicle dealers and repairers, unlicensed people who appeared to be operating as motor vehicle examiners and private vehicle owners.

The Report follows the Commission's *Report on Corruption in Respect of Drivers' Licence Applications* tabled in State Parliament last month (December 2016) which recommended criminal proceedings against Mr Gregory Briotti, a former Koorda Shire Councillor and Department of Transport licensing examiner.

It also follows a Commission report on corrupt examiners in 2008 which focussed on the vehicle inspection practices with the Department of Transport-operated Vehicle Licensing Examination Centres and resulted in a vehicle examiner and a motor vehicle repairer facing prosecution.

The Commission recognises that the Department of Transport has worked to provide stronger governance over examiners. A number of measures being adopted or explored by the Department of Transport to improve oversight and governance, in light of what the investigation revealed, are included in the Commission's report – and the Commission recommends adopting all of them including increasing physical and technical resources.

ENDS

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