

MEDIA RELEASE

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The importance of internal governance: A review into a Main Roads WA investigation

Public agencies responding to misconduct should ensure they not only discover what happened but understand how it happened and take steps to prevent a repeat occurrence.

That is the key message arising from a Corruption and Crime Commission report, tabled in State Parliament today, which details the Commission's review of Main Roads Western Australia's response to misconduct allegations related to suspected nepotism and corruption by two managers.

Main Roads initiated a thorough external investigation which concluded that not only did the managers collude to ensure a relative was hired, they also manipulated processes to fraudulently train and equip them. In addition, one of the managers was found to have misused a corporate credit card.

But the external investigation only painted part of the picture. Missing was any meaningful action by Main Roads to understand how its processes were circumvented, and to address the broader serious misconduct risks.

The Commission recommended audit actions to understand these risks, and review of procurement processes and relevant policies and procedures.

Main Roads has since taken appropriate steps to address the Commission's recommendations.

Commissioner John McKechnie said the report contained important lessons for the broader public sector about the importance of regularly reviewing and updating internal governance measures, and embedding multiple safeguards.

"Misconduct is a preventable ailment," he said. "Agencies should ensure they treat not only the symptoms but the cause."

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