

Submission to the Commission of Inquiry relating to the Crime and Corruption Commission

As one of the Logan City Councillors wrongly charged by the Crime and Corruption Commission in relation to the non-take up of the contract for Chief Executive Officer. I welcome the opportunity to put forward this submission.

In the first instance I must state that this submission may not necessarily meet the Terms of Reference of the inquiry. However, I believe that the contents are extremely valid and need to be heard by the inquiry.

On 26 April 2019 I along with 7 other elected members of Logan City Council were charged with what amounted to fraud. It is my belief that this charge was purposefully made to ensure that all of us would be automatically removed from our elected positions to try to ensure the reinstatement of [REDACTED].

Basically, these charges destroyed the futures of elected representatives of the people of Logan resulting in the disbanding of Council and appointment of an Administrator.

At this time the matter was being heard by the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission and was resolved favourable for those charged. This was despite the C.C.C. attempting to influence this case.

The question must be asked as to why the C.C.C. could not have waited for the result of the Q.I.R.C.

The subsequent withdrawal of all charges against 7 of the members took two years and I believe was timed so that those members who wanted could not recontest their positions in the 2020 election.

The investigation by the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee clearly shows that the Crime and Corruption Commission investigation commenced with the false premise [REDACTED]

The withdrawal of the charges shows that this premise was not sustainable due to a total lack of evidence.

Had the C.C.C. conducted a true unbiased investigation most of the *“evidence”* would have been shown to be either false or pure conjecture.

An investigation into the accusation in relation to the dispersal of the LCC budget by the administrator showed no evidence of bias to any of the charged persons and was shown to be fair to all areas of the city.

A further investigation into the voting patterns of Council would have also shown that there was no truth in the allegations in sworn affidavits of some members, such an investigation would have shown that the allegations were pure conjecture, assumptions, and hearsay.

The issue of the investigating body meeting with the accusers Lawyers without giving the same opportunity to the accused lawyers must be addressed to ensure that all future accused have the same opportunity to put their case.

As the preeminent corruption investigating body in the state the C.C.C. must not only be non-biased it must be clearly seen to be. It is obvious when reading the transcripts of the P.C.C.C. inquiry that this was not the case in terms of us Logan Councillors.

It must also be said that Logan City Council was not the only Council that suffered from an overabundance of ignorance of the political world of Local Government within the C.C.C.

By my count over at least 21 members of Councils across Queensland were charged resulting in several cases of the loss of position, reputation, and livelihood. **All 21 of these charges were found to be unsubstantiated.**

I would suggest that in any future C.C.C. legislation a clause that **requires** the investigating officer of the C.C.C. to request a review (or similar) by the Department of Public Prosecutions to ensure that the charge will stand the scrutiny of a court room.

The use of seconded police officers must also be removed if there is a case surely the D.P.P. could request an investigation by the Q.P.S. It is my belief that the seconded police officers involved in the Logan Case were in the unenviable position of trying to serve two masters. Firstly, to the Q.P.S. and then to C.C.C.

A requirement to conduct a totally unbiased investigation must also be included in legislation this is the only way fairness can be assured. It is obvious in the Logan case that only one side of the story was heard. I don't believe that any of the allegations in affidavits of other members was tested.

In summary Queensland needs a body like the C.C.C, but it needs it to be required to be fair, unbiased, and accountable to the people of Queensland.

The C.C.C. should be able to investigate but not charge this should be the responsibility of the Department of Public Prosecutions and the Queensland Police Service.

This would ensure that **all** evidence is heard and investigated **including** that of those making allegations which in the Logan Case have clearly been shown to be unsubstantiated. biased and politically motivated.

Thank you once again for this opportunity.

Cherie Dalley

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