

To the Honourable Mr Fitzgerald and the commission/team,

I would first like to acknowledge what a fitting title for such an outstanding figure in QLD's history who has been called upon not once but twice in his lifetime to try and clean up systemic levels of corruption within the government of QLD.

The sections of the terms of reference of this inquiry that my submission is relevant to are the following:

Section 3(a)(i)(ii), 3(b)(i-iv), 3(c)(v)

The legislative provisions that the seconded police officers, the CCC and the DPP failed to abide by the Criminal Code 1899 (Qld) section 590AB

INTRODUCTION

The terms of reference of this enquiry are narrow and I have several recordings of seconded QPS detectives working on behalf of the CCC either ignoring corruption on the Fraser Coast or during one interview with a sitting Member of Parliament, telling him that he "can't wait to get back to doing real police work". This police officer ignored the MP's cry for help on behalf of suicidal staff members at FCRC whom I was trying to assist whilst being an under siege Mayor.

These recordings were disclosed to me as part of the disclosure of evidence procedure after the CCC had charged me with "leaking government documents" and other charges which were later dropped although the mud that was thrown is hard to clear oneself of.

I have decided to make a submission to this enquiry about my treatment at the hands of the CCC to highlight the deliberate ignoring of corruption.

When I went to the CCC for help in stopping the corruption I had seen all the way up to the top Ministers within the QLD Labor Party, I expected them to help me as it is their jobs and purpose.

Instead of doing a thorough examination into what I had uncovered, the CCC launched an investigation against me with such narrow terms of reference that the investigating officers were tasked with not only finding evidence to use against me, but ignoring all other evidence of corruption, cover ups or crimes by others.

BACKGROUND INFO

On my first day as the elected Mayor of the Fraser Coast in April 2016, an appointment with a property developer, who I always thought was a little suspicious, was scheduled for me without my knowledge. This person attempted to offer me a bribe in exchange for voting in favour of his developments.

I asked him to leave and from that day, knew that I was in for the fight of my life as I attempted to blow the whistle on corruption in local governments across QLD.

I was Mayor for just under 2 years and during that time, the labor government went through 3 different Local Government Ministers.

From my experience, it appeared that everytime I tried to highlight the systemic corruption within Local Government to the people whose job it is to oversee or eliminate corruption, they would be moved on and therefore unable to act.

It appears the way to handle corruption in QLD, is to simply play musical chairs and pretend it does not exist, while the people of QLD pay the price.

I can confirm that [REDACTED] in the [REDACTED] government knew of my findings but were moved on from the portfolio to avoid having to act on my findings.

[REDACTED] was first but was moved on shortly after and replaced by [REDACTED] whose solution was to threaten my job before [REDACTED] too was moved on shortly after the 2017 state elections.

Finally [REDACTED] was given the role and before meeting with me or allowing me the opportunity to present my findings, [REDACTED] decided to sack me.

After this was challenged in the courts, a regulation was passed to backdate a law that allowed a Minister to fire an elected Mayor.

I became the first Mayor in the history of QLD Local Government to be sacked.

When I sought help from [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] [REDACTED], the responses were to tell me something along the lines of ‘that’s just how business gets done in QLD.’

The then Deputy Director General of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was appointed as an advisor to our council and [REDACTED] actually advised me, along with the [REDACTED] that I needed more staff to perform my role as Mayor and assisted in drafting the position description which ultimately led to my criminal conviction.

In mid-December 2016, [REDACTED], a senior workplace safety investigator started [REDACTED] investigation and told me that [REDACTED] had uncovered a toxic, bullying culture where dozens of staff had been paid off in exchange for their silence.

[REDACTED] was pulled from [REDACTED] investigation and never finalised [REDACTED] report into the Fraser Coast.

I knew without a doubt that the stench of corruption and cover ups had permeated every facet of QLD’s parliament and governing arms.

The CCC, several members of parliament, [REDACTED] and many staff members including the chief at [REDACTED] knew that staff members at FCRC were on suicide watch because of the bullying and abuse they received when they had attempted to expose the dodgy dealings of the council.

All these men and women chose to ignore my cries for help and instead turned their considerable powers against me to shut me up and try to hide the corruption they have benefited from over the past few years.

INFO DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO ACTIONS OF SECONDED POLICE OFFICERS

The detectives investigating me were told point blank by a senior financial staff member with over 30years experience that the elected councillors had been misled by the staff within council in the financial reports for the past several years, but they chose to ignore that.

No matter what evidence was presented or witnesses told the CCC seconded officers, they were only interested in collecting evidence against me.

They achieved their goal and I spent my 69th birthday in prison for an action I took under the advice of a senior local government adviser and the [REDACTED]

I do not feel I was given a fair trial, however I chose not to appeal as I could not bear to put my wife, children and their families through the ongoing pressure that this witch hunt had caused.

INFO RELEVANT TO CCC & DPP CHARGING & PROSECUTING

Failure of CCC & DPP to abide by CRIMINAL CODE 1899 - SECT 590AB

There was a significant failure to disclose evidence that was collected by detectives during their investigation. It is unclear whether this was by the DPP or the CCC but it is a severe breach of ethics, law and shows how little integrity is left within the very organisation tasked with promoting integrity, transparency and oversight of our government.

I am able to provide further details upon request.

CONCLUSION

The terms of reference used in the CCC investigation into myself were set by someone much higher up than the detectives and I believe, purposely written to ensure the systemic corruption at all levels of QLD government and in all departments was not exposed.

Much like the narrow terms of reference used against me, the Palaszczuk government has attempted to hamstring this inquiry to avoid looking into the corrupt culture which stems from the rotting head of the bureaucracy.

A fish rots from the head and the CCC has been used by the government, not as a department to increase trust, integrity and transparency in QLD governance, but as a political tool to

silence any politician who might uncover their dirty back room deals, blatant disregard for the rule of law and incompetent leadership and direction.

Mr Fitzgerald and the team tasked with this inquiry, I implore you to not let the narrow terms of reference shackled upon you by the leader of the most corrupt government in QLD's history stop you from doing your jobs and doing what is right for the people of QLD.

It is clear to the entire world that the CCC was corrupted and seconded detectives did not do their jobs properly due to the directions being given and their own disregard for the rules.

The real question that needs to be asked is why this culture of cover ups, hunting down whistle-blowers and intimidation of witnesses who threaten to expose the corruption within this government occurs in the first place.

If you require more evidence, I would be happy to attend for an interview to elaborate on my treatment at the hands of the CCC and the seconded QPS officers who were tasked with investigating me.

The evidence I have should already be on file at the CCC but if it is not, I am able to supply you with the following to support my submission upon request.

1. Detectives Interview with [REDACTED]
2. Detectives Interview with [REDACTED]
3. Legal advice from [REDACTED] that led to me being charged for causing a detriment (Email)
4. [REDACTED] claiming to attend secret squirrel meetings (Texts)
5. [REDACTED] texts regarding [REDACTED] [REDACTED] investigation.
6. Much much more.

Thank you for taking the time to read and please email, call or request myself in person if you require any information or I can assist you in your inquiry.

Regards

Chris Loft