



Minister for Local Government,
Minister for Racing and
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Our ref: MC19/2327

Your ref: A439823

24 MAY 2019

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Neil

Thank you for your letter of 1 May 2019 about petition number 3067-19 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 30 April 2019 about a request for a Commission of Inquiry into corruption within Local Government procurements, contracts and development approvals.

Local Governments in Queensland are already subject to oversight by a number of independent bodies including:

- the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC)
- the Office of the Independent Assessor
- the Queensland Audit Office
- the Queensland Ombudsman.

These independent bodies each operate under specific Acts which collectively provide wide-ranging powers to conduct inquiries and investigations into Local Governments. In respect to matters involving corruption, the CCC is a permanent body which has the jurisdiction to investigate corrupt conduct in Local Governments. The CCC, in effect, operates as a standing or permanent commission of inquiry with respect to corruption in public agencies including Local Governments. It has proven to be extremely effective in uncovering and exposing corrupt practices in Local Governments as evidenced, for example, in the recent Operation Belcarra and Operation Windage Reports relating to several South East Queensland Local Governments.

As part of its corruption prevention responsibilities, the CCC undertakes corruption prevention audits of various issues relevant to the public sector in Queensland. For your information, the CCC as part of its Corruption Audit Plan for 2019–2021 (the plan), intends to undertake an audit of Local Government Procurement in 2020. The plan can be found on CCC's website at www.ccc.qld.gov.au and clicking on (1) Preventing corruption and (2) CCC Corruption Audits and Audit Plan.

If the petitioners have any specific allegations involving suspected corruption within a particular Local Government, they should lodge a complaint directly with the CCC.

I would like to thank the petitioners for raising these matters with me and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



STIRLING HINCHLIFFE MP
Minister for Local Government,
Minister for Racing and
Minister for Multicultural Affairs