

- 6 OCT 2010

The Hon. Kerry Hickey MP
Chair
Committee on the Office of the Ombudsman
and the Police Integrity Commission
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Hickey

I am writing in relation to the Committee on the Office of the Ombudsman and the Police Integrity Commission's Report on the Sixteenth General Meeting with the Ombudsman, tabled in the Parliament on 22 April 2010.

The Report recommends that the Government take steps to amend sections 21 and 21A of the *Ombudsman Act 1974* (Ombudsman Act) to provide that the Ombudsman may obtain from public authorities information that is subject to legal professional privilege.

On 24 June 2010, the *Ombudsman Amendment (Removal of Legal Professional Privilege) Bill 2010* (the Bill) was introduced into the Legislative Assembly. If enacted, it will amend the Ombudsman Act in the way recommended by the Committee.

The Bill was agreed to in principle in the Legislative Assembly on 2 September 2010 and is currently awaiting debate in the Legislative Council.

The Government supports the Bill.

Yours sincerely



Kristina Keneally MP
Premier