

2022 Review of the annual reports of oversight bodies

Questions on Notice

NSW Crime Commission

1. Mr Paul Lynch of Committee on the Ombudsman, the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission and the Crime Commission (at page 14) of the transcript asked:

Mr PAUL LYNCH: —on that, was there any involvement in task force of big tobacco? Were any of the tobacco companies involved in that?

Mr BARNES: I could not say, Mr Lynch. I would be happy to make an inquiry.

Mr PAUL LYNCH: Yes, well—so that you know where I am going with it, I—there have certainly been examples where big tobacco companies have paid for the surveillance technology used by police in New South Wales. They provided expert witness statements. They provided the laboratory services for the police investigations. They drafted warrants, indeed, for a raid on premises at Liverpool. I am not defending illegal tobacco but I do not think big tobacco should be part of the enforcement process. So if you could take that on notice—

Mr BARNES: Certainly.

Mr PAUL LYNCH: It would be appreciated.

Response:

The [Illicit Tobacco Task Force](#) is a combined Australian Border Force, Department of Home Affairs, ACIC, AUSTRAC, Commonwealth DPP and ATO initiative which aims to investigate, prosecute and dismantle international organised crime groups involved in the illicit tobacco trade. The NSW Crime Commission is not part of this task force.

The NSW Crime Commission's commentary in the Commission's annual report relating to illicit tobacco comes from the Commission's observations based on our investigations. The Commission has not engaged with the big tobacco companies as part of these investigations.

Prepared by:

Mike Wilde

1 November 2022

Chief Operating Officer



Endorsed by:

Michael Barnes

2 November 2022

Commissioner