Supplementary Submission No 1a

REVIEW OF THE INSPECTOR'S REPORT TO THE PREMIER: THE INSPECTOR'S REVIEW OF THE ICAC

Organisation:

Name: Mr Graham Kelly

Position:

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Graham Kelly



31 May 2016

Hon Damien Tudehope

Chair

Committee on the Independent Commission Against Corruption

Parliament House

Macquarie St

Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir

I write again about the report of my successor as Inspector of the Independent Commission Against Corruption to the Premier about suggested amendments to the ICAC.

I had put to one side his suggestion that local government be removed from the ICAC's jurisdiction as a mere aside until the report in the Sun Herald of 29 May 2016.

For the life of me, I cannot understand how such a silly suggestion could be made or given any currency. One of the greatest, most egregious, corruption scandals of this century so far involved local government, the Wollongong City Council: sex and 'gifts' for favours and advantage. A story of sleeve and intrigue too great for fiction.

To cut this jurisdiction from the ICAC would be a giant leap backwards. It would be the release of the reins on our most vulnerable underbelly.

I cannot understand how anyone, let alone the holder of the Office of the Inspector, could raise such a suggestion, even as a mere aside. It is, in my view, plainly irresponsible. It flies in the face of the sheer complaint statistics; and it debases the extraordinary value of the ICAC's work in exposing to public and legal scrutiny the sinister, corrosive, effect of moral and legal turpitude in local government affairs.

Why did this person accept this appointment if he believes that the very jurisdiction over which he has supervisory responsibility should be so gutted? And how could he have been offered such an

appointment when he does not accept the validly of what he is supposed to do: help public confidence in the ICAC by monitoring and reporting on it; not by advocating the demise of it's jurisdiction?

I would not have been so offended by Mr Levine's recommendations if he had made them as a private citizen in the exercise of his freedom of speech, but not as the holder of the office of the Inspector.

Yours sincerely

Graham Kelly