

**Submission
No 6**

**INQUIRY INTO THE BADGERYS CREEK LAND DEALINGS
AND PROPERTY DECISIONS**

Organisation: Coffs Harbour Jetty Action Group
Name: Mr Mal Anderson
Position: Secretary
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Submission to Badgerys Creek – Medich Inquiry – 25 Sept 2009

I wish to address these aspects:

- e. legislative reforms to enhance the integrity of, and public confidence in, the planning and development assessment system, and
- f. other relevant matters arising from the Government's planning policies and decisions.

1. Stop the intimate relationships between sides

It is the ridiculous ease with which these people can parachute into a cushy job on the other "side" that needs some review. One could ask are they hired for their expertise or their intimate knowledge of the inner workings of government decision-making? That knowledge is utterly beyond the reach of the public.

This cross-border intimacy has been rightly described as a seamless connect. Surely we are entitled to expect some sort of walling off in these transitions, some decent lapse of time. It's just plain wrong that even former premiers can hop straight into very lucrative jobs, and betray their former positions of trust.

I call for a 5-year freeze on all contact, at high levels between all industries dealt with, between the 2 sides.

2. Regular rotation of top management in the Planning Department

Top staff, from ministers down to a certain level, should be regularly moved to other departments, say every 2 years, to break cycle of familiarity.

3. Donations to political parties

The time has come to ban all donations to political parties. Election funding should come from the taxpayers, and there must be a clear cap on an electoral campaign spend. Even down to the number of corflutes.

I refer as an example to the lavish advertising done here in Coffs Harbour by a real estate agent for 2 local councillors, which contributed to a stranglehold on the council.

Everything possible should be done to make electioneering as equal as possible.

4. Review of lobbyists

The recently-publicised \$25,000-a-month retainer paid to Graham Richardson is an example of how far the rot has set in. The retainer is obviously considered to be good value.

Considering that the public has no way of competing with them, is it time they were abolished?

5. A netter procedure to dismiss all 3 levels of government

This state government has proved itself so corrupt and inept, that there should be a way of sacking it. One way to start the process would be to set up Citizens Initiated Referenda.

6. Freedom of Info

Genuine Freedom of Information, in a procedure vetted by the ombudsman, of all non-commercially sensitive papers, completely free of charge, delivered promptly.

7. The immediate and unconditional release of all coastal studies.

At a time of rising sea levels, and rising anxiety to go with it, it seems insane that the Environment department is refusing to release coastal studies.

8. A genuine resurrection and further empowering of ICAC and the Omdusman

These functions have been weakened, and not performing to its optimum. This aspect needs urgent independent review.

9. The protection of whistle-blowers.

10. Lands and Planning Departments – abolish and integrate into the Environment Dept

Too much duplication of functions.

11. Abolish Part 3A

Nothing has caused so much misery and anger as this ill-conceived Act to deny democracy.

12. The manner in making this submission

The input online form should be streamlined

Thank you,

Mal Anderson,
Secretary, Coffs Harbour Jetty action Group