

**Submission
No 5**

INQUIRY INTO BADGERYS CREEK LAND DEALINGS AND PLANNING DECISIONS

Organisation: Wollongong Against Corruption

Date received: 25/09/2009

Dear Legislative Council,

On behalf of members of Wollongong Against Corruption I submit the following request for an Investigative Royal Commission into NSW to address the past and current influences that are affecting planning and development in NSW.

I write addressing the following points of reference:

- 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.**

I bring to your attention the desperate need for a Royal Commission into corruption of planning and development process in NSW that we have evidence regarding. Our investigations and research is focused on the Illawarra Region and shows that the ICAC Atlas inquiry into Corruption affecting Wollongong City Council was not at all thorough enough. Our research enables us to infer that ICAC has been compromised in its activities and is not funded adequately in order to investigate, prosecute and prevent corruption in NSW particularly in matters pertaining to planning.

Unfortunately the NSW Ombudsman's Office also has refused or failed to thoroughly investigate or act an enormous amount of complaints regarding planning and State Govt and State Ministerial influence into corruption or malpractice of Planning and land acquisitions.

Residents in NSW community advocacy/campaign groups who we have wide spread contact with have faced the same situation. There is no State Govt agency who has been able to address the complaints of fraud, corruption and State Govt interference of planning and planning legislation that has been adopted to fit the needs of the Govt to maintain the corruption and benefit to both NSW ALP and developers.

Residents across NSW have prepared enormous amounts of material and reports based on primary resource material that certainly shows corruption of planning process and land acquisitions based on insider knowledge and fraud. They have been dissatisfied by the availability of justice through law and Investigative bodies including NSW Police, the ICAC and the NSW Ombudsman's office.

Our research and reports on specific land dealings, planning and development in our local area shows the processes and 'hidden' policies that have enabled corruption of planning and land deals. We have provided the ICAC and Inspectors of the ICAC with our material and persistently requested a thorough investigation and action to identify, assess and address the corruption and malpractice of planning, development and land acquisitions that we have isolated in the Illawarra region that are based on systemic corruption affecting NSW ALP and State Agencies. Many years have passed and many complaints and information received by the ICAC that they 'say does constitute corruption but unfortunately they are unable to investigate all corruption that is presented to them'. We believe that to address the 'problems' of Corruption in NSW that a full Royal Commission of an investigative nature is desperately required in order to stop the culture, hidden policies, and unethical practices that have influenced and affected our State for the past 20 years and have been allowed to become more entrenched and possible by non action by our investigative bodies and the current judicial system and legislation.

It is extremely disappointing to the residents of the Illawarra that your Commission of Inquiry is limited so restrictively and specifically to one area in NSW when we have impressive and conclusive evidence that if presented and investigated by a Royal Commission would clearly and easily identify the methods that this Govt has used and is using to their financial benefit and benefit of those who contribute to their campaigns.

There is a desperate need for a Royal Commission into NSW Planning and Land Acquisitions. Our evidence suggests that the systemic corruption is endemic and systemic of all Govt agencies and specifically including, NSW Ministers and Members of Parliament, NSW Police and DPP, ICAC and Ombudsman's office, Dept of Planning, Workcover and Titles Office. Each Dept seems to have a 'friend' of the NSW ALP placed in positions of authority and responsibility and they too benefit from employment advancement and financial benefit. The corruption of planning is well entrenched and will only be stopped and prevented in future by full and thorough independent investigation, exposure, and justice served for the white collar criminals who have been allowed to ruin and rob this State.

Wollongong Against Corruption maintains its call for a Royal Commission into State Corruption and ask you the Legislative Committee to recommend this in your findings.

Wollongong Against Corruption will continue to thoroughly investigate the corruption affecting this State and the Illawarra and will be looking forward with great anticipation to the day we are finally granted a full and thorough investigation into Corruption that has robbed our State and created a culture of unethical behaviour in all levels and agencies of Govt in NSW.

Yours sincerely,

Vicki Curran

Interim Secretary

Wollongong Against Corruption