

INQUIRY INTO CYBERSECURITY

Organisation: Mosman Council
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In response to Terms of Reference 1(b) Mosman Council suggests that more appropriate processes be in place with respect to phishing incidents. Council was the victim of an international phishing incident whereby the salary of a staff member was fraudulently obtained. The current approach is to treat such matters on the same way as a domestic internal fraud. Accordingly Council was expected by ICAC to following the same reporting regime and investigation processes as in place for domestic fraud. However international phishing incidents clearly do not involve internal staff and warrant lower levels of reporting and investigating. On that basis Mosman Council suggest that procedures for the reporting and investigation of international phishing or identity theft matters be established, rather than to continue to apply domestic fraud processes.

In response to Terms of Reference (g) Mosman Council notes that significant identity theft and cyber security risks arise where Councils make public pecuniary interest returns as a consequence of the open access requirements in GIPA. The stated intent of requiring that the returns be made publicly available is to ensure transparency and to reduce the possibility of Designated Persons benefiting from conflicts of interests is appropriate. However by making returns public on websites, the personal data of thousands of innocent staff across the Local Government Sector is made freely available to cyber thieves across the globe. Data exposed includes, names, personal addresses, job titles, employer, personal address, sources of income, properties and share ownerships, company and trust involvement, loans and banking arrangements and personal signatures. In addition to what is clearly a breach of privacy principles, the dissemination of such wide-ranging and personal data across the globe leaves innocent workers highly vulnerable. In the event an individual suffers significant loss and damage as a consequence of identity or cyber theft is Council liable? Or is the State Government liable? Mosman Council suggests that such personal data be available in a far more controlled manner to protect Designated Persons from cyber theft. Returns could be available only on request where the details of the person requesting can be captured. Alternatively such returns could be held by the Office of Local Government and available on request.

Kind Regards,
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