

Ross Pfennigwerth

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Sensitive



24 October 2019

Peter Hall QC
Chief Commissioner
Independent Commission Against Corruption
Level 7
255 Elizabeth Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000



Dear Commissioner

There was an article in regard to your inquiry into lobbying in Tuesday's Newcastle Herald.

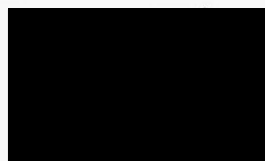
For what it is worth, my thoughts about lobbying are as follows:

1. As I understand it, lobbyists act for clients who wish to gain benefits from persons in public office.
2. Assuming this is the case, the persons in public office must have a duty to provide the details of all lobbying to the public as it is the public to whom they are responsible.
3. To ensure that all lobbying is done openly, so that the public can be aware of the lobbying the following steps are required:
 - (a) All lobbyists should be registered.
 - (b) The registration should include the details of those for whom the lobbyists work and what the entities they work for request from politicians.
 - (c) All documents used in lobbying should be available to the public.
 - (d) All lobbying which is not in written form should be recorded by video and also available to the public.

These suggestions may appear somewhat radical and be a bane to the lobbyists and those for whom they work. However, what will the public think if a lawyer on one side of a case being decided in Court had a private conversation with the Judge hearing the case? I cannot see that there is any difference in a democracy between the forensic situation and the public's expectations of those intellects to enter Parliament on their behalf.

I am happy to assist in any way to further state my position.

Sincerely



Ross Pfennigwerth