

13 June 2019

Chief Commissioner
NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption
GPO Box 500
Sydney NSW 2001

Sent via email to: Lobbying@icac.nsw.gov.au

Dear Commissioner,

Re: Operation Eclipse

I thank you for the opportunity to respond to the NSW ICAC “Operation Eclipse” Lobbying Discussion Paper (April 2019).

I am a digital media professional with over 20 years experience. I am personally interested in how to rebuild public trust and confidence in the integrity of NSW planning and policy making systems.

My submission specifically addresses the following Discussion Questions:

Discussion Questions 11-13: Promoting accessibility and effectiveness.

Recommendation 1: The development and implementation of an online ‘Integrity Matters’ platform that provides:

Simplified public access to searchable, cross-referenced data-bases, such as those identified under Question 12.

The ability to make enquiries, submissions and freedom of information requests.

The display of a peer-to-peer ‘Integrity Score’ and review for all stakeholders, along the lines of an Uber, AirBNB or credit score.

An example of such a platform in the commercial sector is ‘Creditor Watch’, which cross-references ASIC databases with credit reporting information to enable risk assessment and due diligence.

Discussion Question 34: Promoting the role of education and training.

Recommendation 2: The creation of an ‘Integrity Matters’ education program that includes at least the following 3 items:

2a. ‘Integrity Matters’ expedient online quiz-based training, assessment and certification modules, prescribed for all lobby stakeholders identified in Question 34. An example of an online learning module could be any simple Udemy course.

2b. ‘Integrity Matters’ public seminars, round-robin at University lecture rooms and theatres, featuring appropriate panelists examining real world integrity issues and case studies with live audience Q&A, simultaneously broadcast for online audiences, and available for replay on demand. An example of the presentation format could be the ABC’s Q&A TV program but with a tight focus on issues of State integrity.

2c. 'Integrity Matters' social media campaign for a NSW public audience. Consisting of short, sharp, shareable "explainer" videos with a considered balance between regulatory information, real world anecdotes and humour. The outcome should be a greater awareness and understanding of how the lobbying process functions in NSW. The 'call to action' is to engage more in the democratic process, with links to the 'Integrity Matters' platform outlined under Recommendation 1.

Discussion Question 35: Promoting independent supervision to enforce lobbying laws.

Recommendation 3: The 'Integrity Matters' participatory platform and educational program should be fully funded by NSW Government and operated under the auspices of NSW ICAC, rather than the NSW Electoral Commission.

Thank you again for your consideration of this submission. I am available to discuss or expand on any of the ideas presented in this submission. I look forward to the outcomes of "Operation Eclipse".

Please note, the title 'Integrity Matters' is presented as a descriptive framing for the purposes of this submission only.

Kind Regards,

Peter Dowson, B.Com
Centennial Park, NSW, 2021