

Councillor Professor Philip Thalís

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23 May 2019

The Hon. Peter Hall QC - Chief Commissioner
NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption
GPO Box 500
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Chief Commissioner

SUBMISSION TO THE REGULATION OF LOBBYING, ACCESS AND INFLUENCE IN NSW

We are writing to provide our comments to the investigation the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) is conducting into the regulation of lobbying, access and influence in NSW (Operation Eclipse), regulation that we believe is long overdue.

We are concerned that only a handful of the recommendations from ICAC's previous investigation in 2010 have been implemented, and welcome this investigation.

We agree with the discussion paper that lobbying processes should be made as open and transparent as possible. Transparency should be an integral principle to the regulation of lobbying, access and influence to elected officials.

Public disclosures of lobbying activity should be more immediate. Lobbying activity disclosures need to be made in real time or as soon as practicable. We agree with the discussion paper that the act of disclosure promotes accountability.

In general, we support the creation of any guidelines for elected officials to follow to prevent lobbyists and proponents from enjoying greater access to them than the general public.

Should you wish to speak to us about the above, please contact Pamela Poci, phone 9246 7383, email ppoci@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Philip Thalís.

Philip Thalís
Councillor

Handwritten signature of Jess Miller.

Jess Miller
Councillor

Handwritten signature of Jess Scully.

Jess Scully
Councillor

Handwritten signature of Robert Kok.

Robert Kok
Councillor