

## **Taskforce Flaxton Inquiry**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **Context**

The Queensland Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) has received a number of allegations of corrupt conduct within Queensland corrective services facilities.<sup>1</sup> The allegations involve a range of conduct including, but not limited to, assault/use of excessive force; misuse of authority to benefit (oneself or another) or to cause detriment (including harassment); failure of duty (including failures to comply with legal, policy or reporting obligations); misuse of information; and drug-related offences. The number of allegations has been increasing and it is reasonable to also suspect a level of non-reporting in the sector.

In discharging its corruption function, the CCC has conducted investigations of alleged corrupt conduct within Queensland corrective services facilities. As a result of investigations conducted, a number of possible systemic issues have been identified. Taskforce Flaxton will examine these issues with a view to raising standards of integrity relevant to: detecting, managing and preventing corruption risks associated with corrective services facilities and managing prisoners under the *Corrective Services Act 2006*; and the way allegations of suspected corrupt conduct against correctional officers (and others) are dealt with by Queensland Corrective Services and engaged service providers.<sup>2</sup>

#### **Objectives of the Public Hearing Component of Taskforce Flaxton**

Pursuant to sections 176 and 177(2)(c)(ii) of the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*, the Commission authorises and approves the holding of public hearings in relation to Taskforce Flaxton.

The CCC public hearing is examining:

- 1) Corruption and risks of corruption in Queensland corrective services facilities (including 14 prisons (two managed under private contracts), and work camps).
- 2) Features of the legislative, policy and operational environment that may enable corrupt conduct to occur or are vulnerable to corrupt conduct.
- 3) Reforms to better prevent, detect and deal with corrupt conduct within Queensland corrective services facilities.

#### **Public Report**

The CCC will issue a public report on the outcomes of Taskforce Flaxton.

#### **Alan John MacSporran QC**

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<sup>1</sup> Under Schedule 4 of the *Corrective Services Act 2006* (CS Act) 'corrective services facility' means a prison, a community corrections centre or a work camp.

<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to s. 273(2) of the CS Act, the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* applies to an engaged service provider prescribed under a regulation as if (i) the provider were a unit of public administration; and (ii) the holder of a specified office, prescribed under a regulation, of the provider, were the chief executive officer of the provider; and (iii) a person employed by the provider were a person holding an appointment in a unit of public administration.