



Premier of New South Wales
Minister for Western Sydney

7 SEP 2016

Reference: A1551185

Received 8/9/16 CM.

The Hon. Damien Tudehope MP
Chair
Committee on the Independent Commission Against Corruption
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Tudehope

I refer to Report No. 1/56 of the Committee on the Independent Commission Against Corruption, entitled *Review of the 2013-14 Annual Reports of the Independent Commission Against Corruption and the Inspector of the Independent Commission Against Corruption*.

I am writing to advise of the Government's response in relation to the two recommendations of the Committee in that Report.

The first recommendation of the Committee is that the Government ensure that Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors of the ICAC are recruited in a timely fashion to avoid any periods of vacancy in these positions.

The Government agrees that Inspectors of the ICAC are important and that they should be appointed in a timely fashion.

As you are aware, the Committee is currently conducting a more detailed inquiry into the ICAC Inspector's Report to the Premier entitled *The Inspector's Review of the ICAC* dated May 2016. The terms of reference for the inquiry include the current oversight arrangements for the ICAC, including the role, powers and resourcing of the ICAC Inspector, and possible options for reform.

The Government looks forward to receiving any further recommendations concerning the Office of the Inspector of the ICAC that may arise from that inquiry.

The second recommendation of the Committee is that the NSW Attorney General write to the Commonwealth Attorney General seeking an amendment to the *Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979* (Cth) to enable the Inspectors of law enforcement and integrity agencies to access telecommunications interception material for audit purposes.

The recommendation mirrors recommendation 31 of the *Review of Police Oversight* conducted by former NSW Shadow Attorney General, Mr Andrew Tink AM. The Government has given its in-principle support to all of the recommendations in the Tink Review.

I am advised that this issue has been raised by officers of the Department of Premier and Cabinet with Commonwealth officials in the context of implementing the Tink reforms and that those discussions are ongoing. I am further advised that this issue will be considered by the Commonwealth in the context of its general review of the *Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979* (Cth).

Yours sincerely



MIKE BAIRD MP
Premier