

Submission
No 2

**INQUIRY INTO INTEGRITY, EFFICACY, AND VALUE FOR
MONEY OF THE LOCAL SMALL COMMITMENTS
ALLOCATION PROCESS**

Organisation: NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption
Date Received: 17 December 2024

Ms Abigail Boyd MLC
Chair
Public Accountability and Works Committee
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Our Ref: AD24/0161

Dear Ms Boyd

***Inquiry into the integrity, efficacy, and value for money of the Local Small
Commitments Allocation process***

The NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption (the Commission) wishes to make a brief submission to the above Inquiry.

The Commission's interest relates primarily to the measures necessary to ensure the integrity of grants schemes and public confidence in the allocation of public money, which fall within 1(c) of the Committee's terms of reference.


The Commission's views on this topic are contained in its August 2022 report titled, *Report on investigation into pork barrelling in NSW (Operation Jersey)*. This report considers the circumstances in which the allocation of public funds and resources to targeted electors for partisan political purposes can constitute corrupt conduct. The report also considers how such conduct could be prevented and better regulated. In doing so, the report examines topics including the framework for grants and funding, potential gaps, the role of ministers and members of Parliament, assessing funding applications and submissions, achieving value for money, recordkeeping, and audits of grant schemes.

Additionally, the Commission's June 2023 report titled, *Investigation into the conduct of the then member of Parliament for Wagga Wagga and then premier and others (Operation Keppel) volume 2*, made finding of serious corrupt conduct against a former premier of NSW in relation to grant funding that was awarded and promised.

The above reports can be downloaded from the Commission's website at www.icac.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

The Hon John Hatzistergos AM
Chief Commissioner

 December 2024

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