

25 October 2018

Mr Alan MacSporran QC  
Chairperson  
Crime and Corruption Commission Queensland  
by email: [mailbox@ccc.qld.gov.au](mailto:mailbox@ccc.qld.gov.au)

Our ref KT:MD

Dear Mr MacSporran QC

### Operation Stockade

I write concerning recent arrests by the Crime and Corruption Commission Queensland (CCC) of Queensland solicitors as a part of Operation Stockade.

The Queensland Law Society condemns illegal conduct.

As officers of the Court, legal practitioners are held to a higher standard and it is disappointing to have seen a very small number of our solicitors being charged with falling significantly short of that standard.

Where wrongdoing has occurred, we support the prosecution and full punishment of those responsible. We would be very pleased to cooperate with the CCC with respect to the current matters or any future investigations involving solicitors.

The Queensland Law Society is a co-regulator of solicitors in Queensland with the Legal Services Commission (LSC). Under the *Legal Profession Act 2007*, we have responsibility for issuing practising certificates and the LSC has jurisdiction for conduct issues.

Under our Act, a solicitor must inform us of being charged with a serious offence within seven days. We then have power to consider whether to act against that person in the public interest. While the Act in New South Wales<sup>1</sup> specifically permits their local regulatory authority to suspend a practising certificate where a charge of a serious offence has been made but has not yet been determined, our Act has no corresponding specific power.

Accordingly, in order for us to take action against any solicitor under our Act we need evidence beyond the mere fact they have been charged. I would be very grateful if the CCC would consider sharing with us evidence sufficient to permit us to take any steps necessary to protect the public in these matters.

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<sup>1</sup> Legal Profession Uniform Law (NSW), Section 82(2)

Operation Stockade

To further this I would be very pleased to meet with you to discuss how we may best cooperate on the current matters and any issues arising in the future.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Taylor', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ken Taylor  
**President**