



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Former Council employee referred to CCC

August 25, 2017
COOKTOWN

Cook Shire Council has refuted statements made in documents tabled by Cairns MP Rob Pyne in Queensland Parliament yesterday.

Mr Pyne tabled documents under parliamentary privilege in early August, calling for Cook Shire Council to be placed into administration, and yesterday tabled further documents claiming a former staff member referred to the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) had been cleared and that the matter had not been referred to the Queensland Police Service (QPS). "As required by law, concerns of alleged corrupt conduct by the former employee were referred to the CCC," Cook Shire Council Chief Executive Officer Tim Cronin said.

"Council has not made any public statements in respect of this matter to date, having regard for the sensitive nature and due process of the CCC and Queensland Police," Mr Cronin said. "However, in view of yesterday's documents tabled under parliamentary privilege by Mr Pyne, I would like to clarify the facts."

The Crime and Corruption Commission wrote to Council on June 8, 2017, advising the outcome of their review into the matter. The CCC advised "Having had an opportunity to review the materials provided by Council, we are of the view these allegations would, if proved, amount to corrupt conduct as defined by the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* (the Act). After considering the principles which apply under the Act, and noting (the employee) is no longer an employee of Council, we have decided to refer these matters to the Queensland Police Service (QPS) for their investigation. This decision is made in accordance with s46(2)(c) of the Act. Whilst (the employee's wife) was not an employee of Council, noting her possible involvement in these matters, her conduct will also form part of our referral to the QPS".

Cook Shire Council does not intend to make any further comment on this matter.

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