

OPERATION SANDON – CASEY CITY COUNCIL

Julie Davis

Barrister



Hard on the heels of the introduction of the new Local Government Bill for Victoria, and at the time of writing, the City of Casey Council has been sacked by the Victorian Government. Legislation was introduced into Parliament in light of the report of the Municipal Monitor (Laurinda Gardner) recommending this action. The next general election for the Casey City Council to be held in October 2024. The IBAC examination into allegations of serious corrupt conduct in relation to planning and property development decisions at the City of Casey Council will recommence on 2 March 2020.



The public examinations focus on:

- the transparency and integrity of planning and property development decision making within Victoria, including the provision of donations and in kind assistance to candidates at State and local government elections that may give rise to actual or perceived corruption

- whether public officers involved in planning and property development decision making have been improperly influenced through donations, gifts, pro bono services or other hospitality
- the circumstances surrounding any actual or potential financial benefits obtained by any public officer, their families or their associates, resulting from, or otherwise in connection with, planning and property development decision making within Victoria
- whether the use of professional lobbyists or planning consultants to lobby State and local government has resulted in undue influence over planning and property development decision making within Victoria
- the systems and controls in place within public bodies concerning planning (particular focus will be given to the existence and adequacy of systems and controls, including by detecting instances of public officers obtaining corrupt benefits or being unduly influenced by individuals lobbying on behalf of vested interests).
- if the investigation of the above matters identifies serious corrupt conduct on the part of one or more current or former public officers, the extent to which (if at all) organisational culture and practices have fostered that conduct or hindered opportunities or attempts to detect and eliminate that conduct.

(Go to www.ibac.vic.gov.au)

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