



Media Release

Willem Westra van Holthe
Deputy Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

Former NT Chief Justice to inquire into establishment of anti-corruption body

14 December 2015

Former Northern Territory Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Brian Martin AO QC has been appointed by the Administrator to inquire into and report on the establishment of an independent anti-corruption and integrity body in the Northern Territory.

Acting Chief Minister Willem Westra van Holthe said Mr Martin's appointment followed a motion passed in Parliament that set out the independent process of inquiring into the establishment of a new body.

"Brian Martin has a wealth of legal experience having served as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory from 2004 to 2010, as a Judge of the Supreme Court of South Australia between 1999 and 2004 and as Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions between 1997 and 1999," Mr Westra van Holthe said.

"Mr Martin presided over the trial of Bradley Murdoch for the murder of Peter Falconio, as well as the trial of the Snowtown murders in South Australia, and he has extensive experience in criminal matters and anti-corruption proceedings.

"His appointment was recommended by an advisory panel that consisted of the Solicitor-General, the Chief Executive of the Department of Attorney-General and Justice and former Administrator Sally Thomas AC, and has been approved by the Administrator."

As per the motion passed in Parliament, some of the considerations Mr Martin will take into account include:

- The power to investigate allegations of corruption including against Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly and other public officials;
- The power to conduct investigations and inquiries into corrupt activities and system-wide anti-corruption reforms as it sees fit;
- The appropriate trigger for an NT ICAC jurisdiction and the relationship between this body and other Northern Territory bodies such as the Ombudsman;
- Models from any other jurisdictions and indicative costs of establishing various models in the Northern Territory; and

- The use of existing Northern Territory legislation or Northern Territory statutory authorities.

Mr Martin will consult with relevant stakeholders including but not limited to the NT Police, NT Law Society and the Criminal Lawyers Association.

Mr Westra van Holthe said the Government was committed to working in the best interests of the people of the Northern Territory and looked forward to Mr Martin's report.

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