



POLICE ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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Committee Ignores Expert Oversight Recommendations

The Police Association of NSW has condemned the report released yesterday by the Committee on the Ombudsman, the Police Integrity Commission (PIC) and the Crime Commission Report on police oversight.

The Committee has made recommendations that the NSW Ombudsman's and Police Integrity Commission's current functions and powers to independently investigate police misconduct in relation to critical incidents and monitor police critical incident investigations, should remain unchanged and that there is no necessity to implement the recommendation in the McClelland report that PIC and ICAC share staff, resources, expertise and capabilities.

These are in direct contrast to recommendations handed down in January this year by The Independent Review of Police Oversight undertaken by Former Labor Federal Attorney General, the Hon Robert McClelland.

Mr McClelland, has had a distinguished political career and is recognised on both sides of parliament as a widely respected legal mind.

He also recommended that PIC and ICAC should be amalgamated, but this was not supported by the bodies concerned and the committee argued that this was not subject to a thorough consultation process.

Police Association President, Scott Weber, said "The Committee have ignored the work done by Mr McClelland in what was an independent and consultative review process with all key stakeholders.

"If the Committee members think that police oversight as it stands is fair, reasoned and acceptable, then perhaps they should be seeking other employment opportunities.

"Police remain beholden to the power grabbing plays of ICAC, PIC and the NSW Ombudsman, all eager to justify their continued existence and resources afforded them.

"At present police officers are not afforded procedural fairness or natural justice. We support appropriate oversight and transparency, and the report by Robert McClelland delivers that. We look forward to the NSW State Government's response to the McClelland report."

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PRESS RELEASE