

MEDIA ALERT

Procedural fairness process commences for Operation Luna

13 November 2023

The ACT Integrity Commissioner has today confirmed that he has provided relevant parties with a proposed Special Report detailing the presently proposed findings into allegations of corrupt conduct arising from the procuring and awarding of consultancy contracts totalling more than \$8.5 million by the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT). The confirmation follows a statement by the Commissioner at the Commission's appearance before the Standing Community of Justice and Community Safety Inquiry into 2022-23 Annual and Financial Reports.

Codenamed Operation Luna, the purpose of the investigation is to determine whether the conduct of certain CIT public officials amounts to corrupt conduct and/or serious or systemic corrupt conduct, as defined under the *Integrity Commission Act 2018*. This proposed report covers only a certain aspect of the Commission's investigation and does not signal the conclusion of Operation Luna in its entirety.

The *Integrity Commission Act* requires the Commission to provide the proposed report, outlining its proposed findings, to individuals and entities to whom it relates or who have a direct interest in the matter. Those persons or entities must be given six weeks to comment on the proposed report. Any comments received must be considered by the Commissioner and amendments must be made if this is judged appropriate. This process is generally referred to as the 'natural justice' or 'procedural fairness' process.

Procedural fairness is crucial to ensure all views and comments are properly considered before findings are finalised and a report is released and available to the public. Parties who receive this proposed report, or who are involved in the procedural fairness process, also receive a non-disclosure notice, requiring them by law not to disclose the report's contents. If the report, or any part of the report is disclosed to a person or entity contrary to the non-disclosure notice, this may constitute an offence under the *Act*.

It is important to note that a person or entity receiving the proposed report does not necessarily mean that there have been proposed adverse findings against them. The *Integrity Commission Act* requires the proposed report to be provided to all parties considered to be relevant by the Commissioner.

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