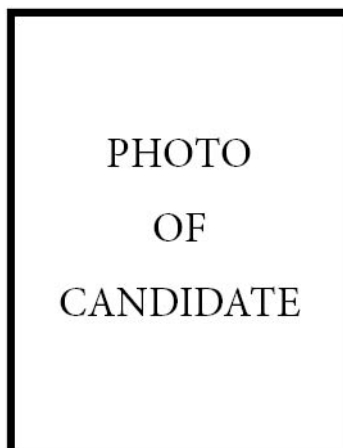


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GREG McMAHON

**INDEPENDENT SENATE CANDIDATE for QUEENSLAND
FEDERAL ELECTION - 2 JULY 2016**

The need for an inquiry into the judiciary and justice system in Queensland

Queensland Independent Senate candidate, Greg McMahon, said today he would work within the Senate to help achieve a Royal Commission into the judiciary and justice system in Queensland.

"A Royal Commission was called for by the media last year in Queensland, and legal groups have advocated a mechanism to be established for complaints to be made against judges and magistrates," Mr McMahon said.

"And the current turmoil and bickering within the judiciary in connection with the appointment of Chief Justice Carmody, as reported again in yesterday's *Courier-Mail*, is undermining public confidence in the judiciary in this state.

"It is a serious Queensland problem, but Queensland does not have an Upper House to assist such calls for reform reach any outcome.

"The Senate may have to do what it can to fill that void," Mr McMahon said.

"The media's call for a Royal Commission related to the ousting of Chief Justice Carmody from that role.

"The media also carried disclosures of alleged politicisation of the judiciary, of alleged favouritism in the making of judicial appointments, and of upset amongst the judges at each other's commitment and work performance," Mr McMahon said.

“Whistleblowers are on the record for disclosures made to executive and parliamentary authorities about the actions of judges and of lawyers who became judges.

“Controversial imprisonments, unsuccessful prosecutions, failures and refusals to prosecute, and the need to involve the courts and justice professionals from other States in the resolution of justice issues in Queensland, appear to be an accumulation of symptoms, the cause of which may not be being addressed,” Mr McMahon said.

“The judiciary are reporting their own satisfaction with how things are, as though the good side has won.

“The Lower House in Queensland has resorted to talk of establishing another Commission watchdog, a Judicial Commission.

“This is likely to be as unsuccessful as the other Commissions already in the justice system,” Mr McMahon said.

“The Crime and Corruption Commission, the Legal Services Commission, the Ombudsman’s Office and similar.

“These Commission watchdogs appear to be ‘colonising’ the justice system in Queensland,” he said.

“Displacing the law and its legal precedents with watchdog opinions contradicting precedent, displacing courts and their decisions through watchdog procedures that allow court decisions to be dismissed, displacing Parliament and its legislation by inventing new categories of law administered by these watchdogs that are outside of the traditional criminal law-civil law categorisation, and displacing the constitution and its clauses with parallel processes established by watchdogs, which processes the watchdogs then prefer, are concerns that, if demonstrated, may be diminishing our traditional laws in Queensland.

“Legal precedents, legislation, the courts and the constitution may be becoming the ‘traditional owners’ of justice in Queensland, to continue the ‘colonisation’ metaphor.

“And what can the Senate do?”

“The Senate, in its role as the Grand Inquest for the Nation, could conduct an inquiry,” he said.

“Asking Queenslanders to submit complaints about the judiciary and the justice systems by way of submissions could reveal just how large the accumulation of complaints against the judiciary and justice systems in Queensland has become.

“The Senate, by giving voice to the public on these justice issues, may give impetus for a full Commission of Inquiry if such a Commission is justified,” Mr McMahon said.

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