

media release #4



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OF
CANDIDATE

GREG McMAHON

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

Whistleblowers support Greg McMahon standing for the Senate

Prominent members of the Queensland whistleblowing community have expressed support for Senate candidate Greg McMahon's campaign for election to the Upper House. Mr McMahon is the President of Queensland's Whistleblower Action Group, which is the oldest organisation of whistleblowers in the world. Mr McMahon's standing for the Senate is the first initiative taken by whistleblowers to directly influence the political response to whistleblowing.

Former Inspector Col Dillon, a principal witness at the Fitzgerald Inquiry, and author of the recently published book about blowing the whistle in the Qld Police Force 'Code of Silence', said after the launch of Mr McMahon's campaign, "I can see the strategic nature of Greg's initiative. Greg has summarised the situation between governments and their whistleblowers well, and I support his vision for addressing systemic corruption of our institutions."

Col Dillon was the formation President of the Whistleblowers Action Group.

Former Town and Shire Clerk and Local Government Boundaries Commissioner, Eric Thorne, who disclosed misconduct within a Council, was equally supportive: "Greg has been involved in support and advocacy for whistleblowers for two decades. Today he showed that he has captured the critical issues and identified the courses open for governments to address properly and thoroughly the disclosures of waste, misconduct and corruption bravely made by whistleblowers."

During the launch Mr McMahon spoke about his own whistleblowing experiences when making disclosures about Defence service issues. He was able, as an army officer in a union-forbidden

workplace, to involve the union movement and the ACTU in achieving major reforms in the Defence Force.

Dr Pam Swepson, who made disclosures about the Fire Ant Control Program in Queensland, said she was pleased with the emphasis Mr McMahon placed on the importance of the Senate.

"We do not have an Upper House in Queensland", Dr Swepson said, "So the Senate is the only House of Review to which Queenslanders can seek relief from poor government by the Lower House. The action of the Senate in the early 1990s to draw attention to the treatment of whistleblowers in Queensland by the Queensland Government is well remembered."

Kevin Lindeberg, who disclosed the destruction by the Goss Cabinet of the Heiner documents supported the emphasis Mr McMahon gave to the role of the Senate.

"Greg understands the constitutional role of the Senate as the Grand Inquest of the Nation, and he wants the Senate to live up to its obligations in this role," Mr Lindeberg said.

Mr McMahon said he would advocate in the Senate for effective whistleblower protection, and for a review of the processes used by Commissions of Inquiry. He called for a Royal Commission into banking and for a Commission of Inquiry into the Fair Work Commission and financial governance of unions. Mr McMahon said he would make disclosures to both Commissions.

Mr McMahon called on the Prime Minister and the Opposition Leader to meet with him during the election campaign.

"The disclosures that I would make to the PM should cause him to change his position on a Royal Commission on banking.

"Similarly with the Leader of the Opposition," Mr McMahon said.

"If I could make disclosures to Mr Shorten about the financial governance of two unions, it might convince him that the union movement needs to welcome a proper, thorough and impartial investigation into aspects of financial governance that were not considered by the recent Inquiry that focused on the Construction Industry."

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