

Cr **Nicole Johnston**
Councillor for Tennyson Ward



Tel > (07) 3403 8605
Fax > (07) 3403 8608
Mail > 180 Fairfield Road, Fairfield, QLD 4103
Email > tennyson.ward@ecn.net.au

Media Release

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BCC Ignores Ombudsman's Direction

Brisbane City Council has, to date, failed to comply with a direction from the Queensland Ombudsman to release a Report in the operation of the Councillor Code of Conduct complaints process.

Councillor Johnston said the Ombudsman's office had initiated a review of the Councillor complaints process under s12(a) of the *Ombudsman's Act 2001* and under s50(4) of that Act "the CEO will be required to provide each Councillor with a copy of the report".

"Serious questions need to be answered about why the CEO of Council and the Lord Mayor are rushing through changes to the Code of Conduct and complaints process without publishing the Ombudsman's report as required," Councillor Johnston said.

"In recent weeks both the Crime and Misconduct Commission and Queensland Ombudsman have undertaken investigations into Council's governance practices as they affect Councillors."

"Council has failed to fully implement the CMC's recommendations with respect to the Council minutes and rules of procedure and now has not released the Ombudsman's Report."

"If the Lord Mayor is serious about transparent and accountable governance, he will immediately release the Ombudsman's Report and withdraw his proposed changes to Councillors Code of Conduct, due to be debated at Council today, until the Ombudsman's Report and any recommendations are fully considered."

For further information please call Nicole Johnston 34038605 or 0407039198

