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TRADE UNION ROYAL COMMISSION MUST CONTINUE: IPA

Today's decision by Dyson Heydon to remain as Trade Union Royal Commissioner should put this matter to rest and allow this corruption inquiry to resume its important work, according to Brett Hogan, Director of Energy and Innovation Policy at free market think tank the Institute of Public Affairs.

"Unions should be as shocked as the rest of us at the extent of the behaviour already uncovered by the Royal Commission into Trade Union Governance and Corruption, which has already referred over 25 union officials to law enforcement agencies and regulators for further action," says Mr Hogan.

"Rather than trying to shut the Commission down, unions should be co-operating with it so that they can identify and weed out the people that are bringing their movement into disrepute."

"That the unions would rather turn a blind eye to illegal activity suggests that problems in the union movement are far deeper than already identified."

"This selective attitude to the law is part of the cultural problem that has been revealed during testimony at the Royal Commission so far."

"There should no longer be one set of rules for unions and employer organisations and another for the rest of us," says Mr Hogan.

Earlier this month the IPA made a submission to the Royal Commission calling for laws to be changed so that:

- Duties imposed on unions and employer organisations and penalties for non-compliance are the same as those that apply to companies under the *Corporations Act* (2001);
- Registration and regulation of trade unions and employer organisations should be undertaken by a designated, independent regulatory body, and not by the Fair Work Commission; and
- A new, specialised appeals body that is separate to and independent of the Fair Work Commission should be established to put an end to partisan arguments about 'employer versus union' influence on Commission appointments and decisions, as well as ensure more consistent decision making.

The IPA's full submission to the Royal Commission into Trade Union Governance and Corruption is available [here](#).

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