

File Ref: 12/377-0

Julie Dennett
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Dennett

Inquiry into the Law Enforcement Integrity Legislation Amendment Bill 2012

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the proposed amendments to the Law Enforcement Integrity Act 2006 ("the Act"), contained in the Law Enforcement Integrity Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 ("the Bill").

The Bill includes amendments that will bring the CrimTrac Agency, and the staff of CrimTrac, under the operation of the Act. Both I, as the Chief Executive Officer of CrimTrac, and the Board of Management of CrimTrac, welcome and fully support this decision.

CrimTrac provides national information sharing solutions for Australian police and law enforcement, and in doing so hosts and transmits information created by and for police and law enforcement. CrimTrac operates in partnership with Australian police and law enforcement agencies to deliver these solutions. The relationship of trust that exists between CrimTrac and its partners is crucial to the success of the solution. It is on this basis that CrimTrac welcomes the amendments in the Bill that will see the inclusion of the agency in the framework established under the Act. In defining CrimTrac as a law enforcement agency the Bill recognizes that the nature of the information that CrimTrac hosts could place our staff in a position of vulnerability to approaches from those who seek to benefit from accessing or altering police or law enforcement information.

Although there have been no allegations of this nature made against CrimTrac staff since the establishment of the agency in 2000, the recognition of the risk that is being addressed in the Bill serves to reinforce the need to act with integrity in dealing with this information, and to provide support to staff in continuing to maintain the culture of integrity that has been established.

I look forward to working with the Commissioner for Law Enforcement Integrity to establish an integrity partnership to further strengthen the mechanisms already in place within CrimTrac that ensure that our staff are supported to approach their work with integrity, professionalism and fairness.

Yours sincerely

Doug Smith APM
Chief Executive Officer

12 October 2012