

**Will Hodgman MP**  
Leader of the State Opposition  
Wednesday August 20

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### ***The stench needs clearing now, Premier***

Pressure is mounting on the Premier, David Bartlett, to support a Commission of Inquiry into current corruption scandals embroiling the government that cannot be investigated by an anti corruption body, because thanks to the Premier and his government, Tasmania currently does not have one.

The State Opposition supports moves announced by the Premier to deal with future cases of maladministration and corruption, although they don't go far enough, and the devil will be in the detail.

But there is a stench that relates to a series of grave corruption scandals that embroil the government right now.

These must be investigated independently by a Commission of Inquiry.

"It is all very well to draw a line in the sand, but the mess that embroils the government right now cannot just be swept under the carpet in the process," Leader of the State Opposition, Will Hodgman, said.

"The Premier has identified that existing mechanisms are not adequate to maintain faith in democracy and has finally agreed we need an anti corruption body.

"That body was needed years ago and it is needed right now. In the absence of it, we need a Commission of Inquiry to get to the bottom of the suite of corruption scandals surrounding this government," Mr Hodgman said.

Mr Hodgman said Mr Bartlett was being too smart by half using Solicitor General's advice relating to a current police inquiry into the Police Commissioner to justify his lack of action on this issue.

“As the proposed terms of reference make clear, this is not just about an investigation into the Police Commissioner that is currently underway. It extends far wider, to the Premier, members of the government, and also appears connected to the Tasmanian Compliance Corporation and shreddergate scandals.

“If ever an anti corruption commission was needed, it is needed to look at this series of scandals, and in the absence of that body, a Commission of Inquiry must be established.

“Otherwise this stench will never be cleared.”

Today in Private Members Time, the State Opposition will move for the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry.

Mr Bartlett should allow his members a conscience vote on the issue. The Opposition understands there are several Labor MPs who would vote with us on this issue.

**Further information: Georgia Warner – 0418 564 073**

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