



MEDIA RELEASE

OPERATION ZELINSKY: ACLEI investigation report released

A former Department of Agriculture staff member abused their office by improperly using their position to assist in the importation of material from China

Wednesday, 1 September 2021 (immediate release)

The Integrity Commissioner and head of ACLEI, Jaala Hinchcliffe, has today published her report on Operation Zelinsky – an investigation into an allegation that a staff member of the (former) Department of Agriculture, Mr Jarrod Entwistle, was using his position to benefit a company to import building products from China into Australia.

Operation Zelinsky identified that Mr Entwistle was connected to the company and travelled to China with one of the company’s directors who was also a member of an outlaw motorcycle gang (OMCG).

The investigation found that Mr Entwistle used his position to benefit the company, by obtaining confidential commercial information about the company’s competitors. Between 24 April 2016 and 10 October 2017, Mr Entwistle made 220 unauthorised accesses in departmental systems.

Mr Entwistle also used his position to enable the release and clearance of the company’s consignments quickly. This benefited the company as it meant less storage costs and the quicker delivery of products.

Ms Hinchcliffe said, “Operation Zelinsky shows how information obtained by Commonwealth officers in the course of their duties may be extremely valuable to criminal entities and other external parties.”

“I am satisfied Mr Entwistle engaged in corrupt conduct, namely, abuse of office. By his own admission, he knew that what he was doing was wrong and could land him in gaol.”

Operation Zelinsky was a joint investigation between ACLEI, the Australian Federal Police National Anti-Gangs Squad and the (former) Department of Agriculture.

As a result of the investigation, Mr Entwistle was charged with abuse of public office under the Criminal Code (Cth).

On 26 March 2021, Mr Entwistle was sentenced to one year and 11 months imprisonment, to be served by way of an Intensive Corrections Order. He was also required to complete 500 hours community service work and ordered to pay a fine of \$10,000.

“Unauthorised disclosures may have significant and long-lasting effects on agencies, their employees, governments at all levels, and the wider Australian community.”

The Investigation Report for Operation Zelinsky is available on the [ACLEI website](#).

About the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity (ACLEI)

ACLEI is committed to preventing and investigating corruption issues relating to Commonwealth law enforcement agencies. ACLEI supports the Integrity Commissioner to provide independent assurance

to government about the integrity of prescribed law enforcement agencies and their staff members. The office of the [Integrity Commissioner](#) and ACLEI are established by the [Law Enforcement Integrity Commissioner Act 2006](#) (the LEIC Act). For more information, visit ACLEI's website: aclei.gov.au

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