



MEDIA STATEMENT

Sentencing of Ben Hampton

R v Benjamin Hampton (NSW District Court)

22 November 2017 (immediate release)

Recent media attention has noted the involvement of the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity (ACLEI) in the investigation of an Australian Federal Police Officer, Mr Ben Hampton.

This media statement is made in the public interest, in accordance with section 209 of the *Law Enforcement Integrity Commissioner Act 2006*. No other media comment will be made by ACLEI at this time.

- The Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity (ACLEI) welcomes the Court's decision today, in which an Australian Federal Police (AFP) officer was sentenced to 22 months in prison for corruption-related offences.
- ACLEI notes that the NSW District Court found the AFP officer guilty of releasing confidential law enforcement information to a person whom the officer knew to be associated with people suspected of involvement in organised criminal activity. The Court was also provided with evidence that the officer accepted a cash payment for releasing the information.
- The sentencing marks the conclusion of a long-running joint ACLEI and AFP Taskforce. During the course of the investigation, valuable information and assistance was provided by NSW Police Force detectives investigating a drug importation.
- The target of the NSW Police Force investigation was subsequently arrested following the seizure of a large commercial quantity of cocaine destined for sale in the community, and pleaded guilty to serious drug offences. He also pleaded guilty to a corruption-related offence arising from the ACLEI joint investigation. He is currently serving a prison sentence for both matters.
- The Taskforce investigation is distinguished by the number of agencies that worked together, and confidentially, over a protracted period to uncover the evidence that was placed before the court.
- Corrupt law enforcement officers never think they will be caught or punished. It is essential that they are.