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Message from the Commissioner – Farewell

As most of you would know, today is my last day with the ABCC. It brings to an end a 48-year career in law enforcement. In no way do I regret any of that time, challenging though much of that journey has been.

I could have retired some years ago. However, I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenges that the last decade or so have brought. Moreover, I have been surrounded by wonderful people within the agencies I have served, as well as the majority of stakeholders I have had the pleasure to deal with. During that time, many new friendships have been made and I would like to think that they continue going forward.

In October 2002, I was asked to establish an Interim Building Taskforce, which later became the Building Industry Taskforce. Then in 2005 it became the ABCC. Only six individuals remain from those early Taskforce days – . Pleasingly, over the years they have all risen to Executive Level roles and, in the case of to an SES position.

I cannot stress enough the importance of the work that you all carry out. In the past two weeks I have received dozens of messages of goodwill from contractors, industry associations and politicians. All of them have been complimentary about the great results and successes of this agency. You should all feel justly proud of those achievements.

I am confident that I leave the ABCC in great shape. For me it has been most rewarding to see its culture and morale improve as exemplified in annual staff surveys over the years.

I am absolutely delighted that Cathy Cato is taking over as acting Commissioner. I truly hope that her role becomes permanent. She is a strong leader, possesses fine management skills, and has a work ethic second to none. I cannot begin to thank Cathy enough for the extraordinary support and loyalty she has provided me, going back over nine plus years.

Cathy is a member of a rejuvenated Executive Team, comprising highly motivated, experienced, and passionate individuals. As expressed in a previous message, I wish to thank all staff for your efforts, dedication and the support you have provided me in our time working together.

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That said, I feel obliged to single out certain individuals and groups who ordinarily receive little or no recognition for their work “behind the scenes”. Firstly, I have to acknowledge the two Executive Assistants who have greatly supported me since 2013 — [REDACTED]. Since joining the Senior Executive Service in 1989, I have had the privilege of being provided with an Executive Assistant. I can say without hesitation that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have been unequalled. Their loyalty, hard work, and communication skills have been truly amazing.

I also wish to thank all other members of the “Office of Commissioner” for their diligence, tireless efforts, and ability to confront challenging issues. The four Chiefs of Staff during my time — [REDACTED] [REDACTED] have all displayed great organisational skills, leadership and courage.

Of course, an often overlooked component of the “Office” has been the Professional Standards Unit. Under the sound management of [REDACTED], these members have worked hard to identify ways in which this agency can improve the way it goes about its business. Nobody knows more about the industry than [REDACTED]. That enviable knowledge and experience has always been made freely available and willingly shared with others.

Probably the most overlooked member of the “Office” has been [REDACTED]. I realise that he is greatly respected and admired throughout the agency, but I would like to put on record that I am his greatest fan. His unstinting dedication, concern for others, and passion to improve our methodology is nothing short of commendable.

I wish you all well for the future. As said previously, I would greatly appreciate if the wonderful friendships I have made would continue. If any of you ever feel that I may be able to assist you in any way, either professionally or privately, it would be a privilege to help you. My new email address is [REDACTED].

Nigel

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