

NATIONAL QUEENSLAND

MP levels serious allegations of corruption and misconduct at former Ipswich Mayor Paul Pisasale

By **Mark Solomons****Updated** June 14, 2017 – 11.04pm, first published at 9.52pm

Independent state MP Rob Pyne has used Parliamentary privilege to level serious allegations of corruption and misconduct against former Ipswich Mayor Paul Pisasale and other senior council members.

Late on Wednesday, Mr Pyne tabled the four-page unattributed document in Queensland Parliament.

Mr Pisasale quit as mayor last week citing ill health as the Crime and Corruption Commission confirmed it had launched a fresh investigation into his activities.

Among the most serious claims in the document are that Mr Pisasale received inside information about police raids and arrests from a worker at the QPS communications centre in Ipswich who stood as a council candidate in the 2016 local elections, which the then-mayor used to ingratiate himself with the media and others.



Former Ipswich mayor Paul Pisasale. CHRIS HYDE

It also alleges Mr Pisasale built "political allegiance and silence" by arranging "drastically reduced car deals with politicians" using local Ipswich dealerships.

The mayor and councillors "pressure local businesses for freebies from hair cuts to meals, drinks to electrical goods, for them and their families" and councillors' wives have been employed by developers "to wash dirty money ... as that's how it's done in Ipswich", the document alleges.

The document claims the ALP has consistently turned a blind eye to the activities of Mr Pisasale, a longtime Labor Party stalwart, despite repeated complaints and even when he allegedly leaked information about Ipswich Labor state Parliamentary candidates' campaigning and financial resources to the LNP.

It claims Mr Pisasale did this because he "believed they (the LNP) were going to win the 2012 election and wanted to build relationships".

"Many ALP Branches from across the City have written to various State Secretaries and approached State Govt Ministers, disgusted by the antics of Pisasale both in perceived and real corruption and dodgy dealings, attendance at LNP fundraisers, attacks on State MPs ... but never has any action or result occurred from these considerable concerns being raised," the document states.

The document alleges Mr Pisasale "used a loophole in the Local Government Act to keep any funds raised but not spent on elections for himself".

Comment has been sought from Mr Pisasale.

Mr Pyne, who quit the ALP in March 2016 and has since sat as an independent, has been campaigning for a state-wide inquiry into local government corruption.

He said he had tabled the document, which came into his possession this week, to capitalise on the "momentum" caused by a recent series of revelations of questionable behaviour in Queensland councils.

Mr Pyne declined to identify the person who had provided the document but said they were "a very long-standing and senior person in the Ipswich community".

"The person would attend an inquiry and give evidence," Mr Pyne said.
