



ROYAL COMMISSIONS

7 Royal Commissions · coercive powers · no carve-outs · full public reporting · first term

7

Royal Commissions
First term

90

Days
First RC commissioned

ZERO

Carve-outs
No exclusions

COERCIVE

Powers
Compel · examine · report

THE PROBLEM — WHY AUSTRALIA HAS NEVER ANSWERED THESE QUESTIONS

COVER-UPS — THE PATTERN

COVID inquiry excluded states. Lobbying is unregulated. FOI requests stonewalled for years. Media monopoly unchallenged for decades. Family court failures reviewed but never fixed.

NO ACCOUNTABILITY

Parliamentary inquiries cannot compel witnesses or documents. Departmental reviews are run by the departments being reviewed. Royal Commissions have been promised and delivered

QUESTIONS NOT ASKED

Who authorised lockdowns and on what evidence? Where did Indigenous royalties go? Who owns the media and what did they receive? What is the full accounting of the family court

THE 7 MMP ROYAL COMMISSIONS — THE SUNLIGHT AGENDA

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Full Royal Commission into the COVID-19 pandemic response — federal and state, no exclusions. Terms of reference cover: legal basis for emergency powers; cost-benefit analysis of lockdowns, border closures, mandates; full accounting of vaccine adverse events; suppression of dissenting medical and scientific voices; RBA monetary policy decisions during and

MEDIA MONOPOLY

Australia has some of the most concentrated media ownership of any liberal democracy. News Corp and Nine Entertainment control approximately 90% of metropolitan daily readership. Three corporations collect 80% of free-to-air and subscription TV revenue. The RC will examine what ownership limits serve a functioning democracy, what relationships existed

LOBBYING & FOREIGN INFLUENCE

Australia has a lobbying register that is largely decorative. Foreign influence laws that are applied selectively. Former ministers taking industry positions within months of leaving government. The RC will examine every aspect of the lobbying industry — who paid whom, what access was purchased, what decisions were influenced, what legislative changes were made — and

FOI ABUSE & SECRECY

Freedom of Information is a theoretical right in Australia. In practice: requests are delayed for years, documents are redacted into meaninglessness, exemptions are applied to routine operational information, and agencies have developed sophisticated strategies to exhaust requesters. The RC will examine the full architecture of government secrecy — who

INDIGENOUS GOVERNANCE

The Aboriginals Benefit Account holds over one billion dollars in mining royalties that have not reached communities. Most royalty agreements are confidential. The RC will audit every resource royalty payment made over twenty years, examine every body holding funds on behalf of Aboriginal communities, and determine — with full coercive powers if necessary — how much money has

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The council took the author of this platform to court over a compost toilet and a shed. That experience — multiplied across thousands of Australians every year — illustrates the problem. Local government has accumulated powers disproportionate to its democratic mandate and accountability. The RC will examine rate-setting, enforcement conduct, CEO accountability, council

FAMILY LAW & BREAKDOWN

The family court system has been reviewed repeatedly by parliamentary committees and never fixed. It destroys lives — of parents, of children, of people caught in a system designed for conflict. The RC will examine the full architecture of family law, child support, domestic violence orders, parental alienation, and the broader question of why Australian relationships

THE DESIGN PRINCIPLE

Every Royal Commission operates under the same rules: full terms of reference published before commencement; full coercive powers to compel witnesses, documents, and testimony under oath; public hearings as the default; no carve-outs for any level of government, any political party, or any industry interest; full public reporting — not a summary, not a ministerial

WHY 7, NOT ZERO

Other parties have avoided these questions for thirty years because the answers are uncomfortable for the people in power. MMP is not in power yet. It has nothing to protect. Every one of these seven areas has caused direct, documented harm to Australians. Every one has been shielded from proper scrutiny by the same institutional arrangement: the political class

WHAT CHANGES

Royal Commissions do not govern — they illuminate. What happens after depends on MMP implementing the recommendations with the same directness with which the questions were asked. MMP commits to: full government response to every recommendation within 12 months of final report; legislation for accepted recommendations within the same term; public tracking of

THE SUNLIGHT AGENDA

The seven Royal Commissions are not a punishment exercise. They are a national repair exercise. Australia cannot build a better future on a foundation of unanswered questions. The COVID response, the media landscape, lobbying, FOI, Indigenous governance, local government, and family law — each is a load-bearing wall in Australian civic life. Each is cracked. The

FIRST TERM TIMELINE

Within 90 days: first Royal Commission commissioned — COVID-19. Within 6 months: all 7 commissions established with full terms of reference published. Staggered reporting to avoid recommendation overload: COVID and Local Government year 2; Media, Lobbying, FOI year 3; Indigenous Governance and Family Law years 3-4. MMP will not announce and delay. The

CURRENT FAILURE vs THE MMP FIX

CURRENT — THE FAILURE

MMP — THE FIX

COVID inquiry excluded states, lockdowns, mandates. No coercive powers.

Full Royal Commission. Federal and state. No exclusions. Under oath. RBA scope included.

Media monopoly: 90% of print, 80% of TV. Zero regulatory examination in decades.

Royal Commission into media ownership, government relationships, and regulatory framework.

Lobbying register: decorative. Former ministers in industry within months of leaving.

Royal Commission into lobbying, access payments, influence over decisions. Full audit.

FOI: delays of years, blanket redactions, exemptions applied to routine information.

Royal Commission into FOI abuse and government secrecy. Full transparency framework.

Indigenous royalties: \$1B+ in ABA unaudited. Most agreements confidential.

Royal Commission. Full audit of royalty flows over 20 years. Coercive powers. Published.

Local government: unaccountable CEOs, developer relationships, enforcement overreach.

Royal Commission into local government. Rate-setting, CEO accountability, conduct.

Family law: reviewed repeatedly by parliamentary committees. Never fixed.

Royal Commission into family law, child support, DV orders, relationship breakdown.

Parliamentary inquiries: no coercive powers, ignored by governments.

Royal Commissions: compel witnesses, compel documents, evidence under oath. Teeth.

Recommendations: routinely announced and left to gather dust.

Full government response within 12 months. Legislation within term. Public tracking.

Political class: reviews itself. Departmental inquiries run by departments under review.

Independent commissions. No carve-outs. No political party, level of government exempt.

"Sunlight is the disinfectant. These commissions provide the sunlight." — MMP Federal Platform

★ VOTE 1 — BRETT MURRELL — FARRER — SATURDAY 9 MAY 2026 ★