

## CRIME AND CORRUPTION AMENDMENT BILL 2023

**Submission No:** 2  
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**Committee Secretary**  
**Legal Affairs and Safety Committee**  
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Dear Chair,

I provide you with a submission regarding the *Crime and Corruption Amendment Bill 2023*.

When an elected politician, public service officer in a statutory position whether former or current, are investigated by the CCC for alleged corruption and a report is provided outlining the allegation/s & investigation findings, this should be made public without hesitation at the first available opportunity.

Alleged corrupt conduct within the public service is of significant interest to all Queenslanders regardless if charges are brought by the CCC or not. As taxpayers, all Queenslanders have a right to know what the alleged corrupt conduct is and what the investigation. This enables openness and provides transparency, which should be a key feature of any government.

The proposed amendments would provide the CCC with the power to table a report to the parliament. This provides openness, transparency and the Queensland public have a right to know about such matters. These are matters of public importance, particularly where there is alleged corruption within the public service.

The inability for the CCC to report on the matters like the *Carne* matter, does not provide openness, transparency or integrity expected of the Queensland public. Further, a person who submits a complaint and an investigation is commenced by the CCC, should have the right to review a report from the CCC. The current legislation does not allow the public to understand or know the reasons and/or outcomes of an investigation. This is a major flaw whereby one of the public service values is "Be courageous". Within this value is "Act with transparency". The current legislation does not provide this transparency.

Further to the above, the *Carne* matter has been through various courts jurisdictions, which have cost Queensland taxpayers significant amounts of money where the CCC has challenged the court's decision and defended the application by Mr Carne. The proposed changes to legislation will likely prevent persons subject of the investigations, challenging the tabling of the report, in the courts as the proposed legislation provides the CCC the power to table the report under the *Crime and Corruption Act*. For the CCC to investigate alleged corrupt conduct, there must be evidence that suggests an investigation ought to take place. In the *Carne* matter, if there was no evidence that an investigation should not take place, then the investigation would not have commenced.

If a current or former public service officer or member of parliament are investigated for alleged corrupt conduct and they have not committed corruption whilst in public office, then there should be no need to challenge the release of CCC reports if they have not done anything illegal or corrupt. The release of such reports in this case, should have findings that exonerate them of the alleged corruption.

In addition, the fact that criminal charges have not been brought against the individual, should not preclude the public knowing what the CCC investigation has found. This will allow for the government of the day, to understand if there are lessons to be learnt and remedial action to current processes, legislation or procedures should occur.

I thank the committee for considering this submission.

Regards,

Mr. Caisey Keehn.