



Integrity, Ethics and
Parliamentary Privileges
Committee

INTEGRITY, ETHICS AND
PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGES
COMMITTEE

Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

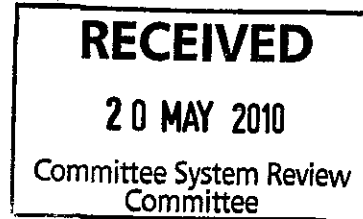
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Sub # 11.

Our Ref: 2.10

20 May 2010



Hon Judy Spence MP
Chair
Committee System Review Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Hon Spence

Thank you for your invitation to provide a submission to the *Review of the Committee System of the Queensland Parliament*.

Please find the Integrity, Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee's submission **enclosed**.

We look forward to the outcome of your review with interest.

Yours sincerely

Kerry Shine MP
Chair

Enc.



Integrity, Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee

Submission to Review of the Committee System of the Queensland Parliament

Submitted: May 2010

For further information about this document, contact the committee's Research Director, Michael Ries (07) 3406 7258.

Terms of reference

1. The Integrity, Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee (IEPPC or the committee) notes the Committee System Review Committee's (CSRC) terms of reference as follows:
 - The role of Parliamentary committees in both Australian and international jurisdictions in examining legislative proposals, particularly those with unicameral parliaments;
 - Timely and cost effective ways by which Queensland Parliamentary Committees can more effectively evaluate and examine legislative proposals; and
 - The effectiveness of the operation of the committee structure of the 53rd Parliament following the restructure of the committee system on 23 April 2009.
2. The Committee will briefly address these points in relation to the committee's operation and experiences.

Role of Parliamentary committees and effective ways to evaluate legislative proposals

3. In July 2009, the IEPPC conducted a Study Investigation to the New Zealand House of Representatives.¹ The committee refers you to the *Report on Study Investigation by the Committee – July 2009* tabled on 3 September 2009 for further information.
4. The Committee noted differences between Queensland and New Zealand's Committee system and were impressed by the capacity for scrutiny of legislation in the New Zealand system.
5. Of note in the New Zealand system, is that each committee scrutinises legislation pertaining to its particular portfolio. This approach enables committees that specialise in the area of the proposed legislation and have a greater awareness of the content of the proposed legislation. This approach also provides more time to effectively examine and evaluate each bill.

Effectiveness of the operation of the current committee structure in relation to the IEPPC

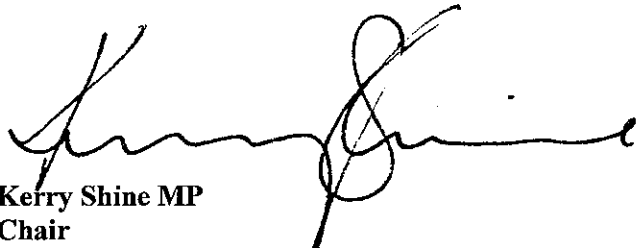
6. The Committee notes that the privileges committee in Queensland has always been a stand alone committee in Queensland. The Committee notes that privileges committees exist in some form in many other Westminster style jurisdictions, including all Australian jurisdictions. Even in portfolio based systems of unicameral parliaments such as New Zealand, the privileges committee is separate with its distinct functions in relation to parliamentary privilege.

¹ MEPPC, *Report on Study Investigation by the Committee – July 2009*, Report No. 98, Goprint, Brisbane, tabled 3 September 2009.

7. The IEPPC is of the view that issues concerning integrity, ethics and parliamentary privilege are most effectively dealt with by a single committee with jurisdiction to educate members and the public on these matters and investigate where necessary.
8. The Committee is of the view that its current structure is a benchmark for other jurisdictions in the way it represents the composition of the House and the way members work together in a bi-partisan fashion. The Committee is satisfied with the operation of the committee and does not recommend any changes to its current format.

Conclusion

9. In conclusion, the Committee is of the view that there is an enhanced capacity for scrutiny of proposed legislation in the New Zealand House of Representatives. The Committee believes that the New Zealand system may also provide guidance towards a more time and cost effective approach to the scrutiny of proposed legislation in Queensland.
10. The Committee is satisfied with the current operation of the IEPPC, in relation to its jurisdiction, organisational structure and general operation.
11. For further information, please contact: Michael Ries (Research Director) at Michael.Ries@parliament.qld.gov.au or 3406 7258.



Kerry Shine MP
Chair

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