

Executive Summary

On 20 February 2025, the Honourable Deborah (Deb) Frecklington MP, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity, introduced the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025 (Bill) into the Queensland Parliament. The Bill was referred to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee (committee) for detailed consideration.

The development of the Bill was primarily informed by the decision of the High Court in *Crime and Corruption Commission v Carne*¹ which was at odds with the prevailing understanding at the time regarding the reporting powers of the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC).

The primary objectives of the Bill are to:

- restore the power of the CCC to report publicly about corruption investigations, as it was considered to exist before the High Court decision, and to ensure that the CCC may also make public statements about these matters
- safeguard against the release of information to the public about corruption matters in circumstances where the risks or harms outweigh any benefits to be derived from releasing the information, and
- ensure that any residual legal risk that might be attributable to the CCC and its officers in respect of the preparation and publication of past reports and statements is removed.

Stakeholders were invited to make written submissions on the Bill. In response, the committee received and accepted 11 submissions which were published on the committee's webpage.

The committee received a written briefing on 25 February 2025 and an oral briefing on 24 March 2025 from the Department of Justice.

The committee also heard from stakeholders at public hearings in Brisbane on 24 March 2025 and 2 April 2025.

Key issues raised during the committee's examination of the Bill related to the following clauses:

- clauses 7, 12-15 – Power to make public reports and statements about corruption matters
- clause 19 - Updated procedural fairness framework regarding adverse comments
- clause 18 - New procedure for the tabling of CCC reports
- clause 30 - Retrospective validation of existing CCC reports and statements

¹ [2023] HCA 28.

- clause 24 – Expansion of unauthorised publication of other restricted information offence
- clause 25 – Amendment to requirements for CCC to engage agents
- clause 22 – Amendment to ability to serve notices by email.

The committee is satisfied that the Bill gives sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals and the institution of Parliament as required by the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*.

Further, the committee is satisfied that the Bill is compatible with human rights as defined in the *Human Rights Act 2019*.

The committee made one recommendation, found at page vii of this report, that the Bill be passed.