

Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee

## CHAIR

Mrs Liz Cunningham MP (Gladstone)

<u>DEPUTY CHAIR</u> Mrs Jo Ann Miller MP (Bundamba)

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Mr Peter Dowling MP
(Redlands)
Mr Ian Kaye MP
(Greenslopes)
Mr Jon Krause MP
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Ms Jackie Trad MP
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The Committee's report can be accessed on its website, below.

For updates on the Committee's work please see the Committee's website at: www.parliament.qld.gov.au/pcmc

## Media Release Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee Inquiry into the release and destruction of Fitzgerald Inquiry documents

Today, the Chair of the Committee, Mrs Liz Cunningham MP, will table the Committee's *Inquiry into the release and destruction of Fitzgerald Inquiry documents* report to the Parliament.

Mrs Liz Cunningham MP said:

"The Committee has worked over the last month to determine how and why the CMC released material in 2012 and destroyed material in 2007 from the Fitzgerald Inquiry.

The CMC has a statutory duty to maintain the records of that most important Commission of Inquiry for all Queenslanders. Clearly, it has failed in its obligations, in this regard."

The direction of the Committee's initial investigation into the matter, which commenced on 6 March 2013, was further defined by the resolution of the House on 8 March 2013.

The Committee held 14 public hearings and has spent many more days and hours in private deliberation considering evidence, compiling the report and formulating recommendations.

"The format for this inquiry was unprecedented in Queensland and if not unique, rare in Westminster democracies. We appreciated the opportunity given by the Legislative Assembly to utilise this new format of inquiry. We were determined to make it a successful model for the future.

The committee affirmed at the commencement of its hearings that we were not afraid of positive reform of either the CMC or the Committee. We remain of that view and are open to new and more effective methods of parliamentary oversight. Such change must however be done with the public interest as foremost and notions of accountability at its heart.

The Committee's report details the committee's inquiry process, the evidence received and considered by the Committee, its findings and 24 recommendations.

Given the time constraints, the Committee has, by necessity, made recommendations for further investigation of certain important matters. One such investigation recommended by the Committee is to consider whether any disciplinary or legislative breaches have occurred as a result if the circumstances considered during the inquiry.

Whilst the Committee acknowledges this has been a difficult time for officers of the CMC, the inquiry was necessary. The CMC is an important institution. There is very great support for that institution to continue to play its vital role in the administration of government in Queensland. The challenge for the CMC and its individual officers is to learn from the inquiry, reform and move forward as a better institution."