



# ***PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE***

**Members present:**

Mr JM Krause MP—Chair  
Mr JA Sullivan  
Ms JM Bush MP  
Mr MJ Crandon MP  
Ms JC Pugh MP

**Staff present:**

Ms L Manderson—Committee Secretary  
Dr S Pruijm—Assistant Committee Secretary

## **MEETING WITH PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMISSIONER**

### **TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS**

**THURSDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2022**

**Brisbane**

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### **The committee met at 1.06 pm.**

**CHAIR:** Good afternoon, everyone. I am Jon Krause, member for Scenic Rim and chair of the committee. Joining me on the committee today are: Mr Jimmy Sullivan, member for Stafford and deputy chair; Mr Michael Crandon, member for Coomera; and Ms Jess Pugh, member for Mount Ommaney. Ms Jonty Bush, member for Cooper, will be joining us shortly. We have apologies today from Mr Don Brown, member for Capalaba, and Dr Mark Robinson, member for Oodgeroo.

The committee's proceedings are proceedings of the Queensland parliament and are subject to the standing rules and orders of the parliament. As parliamentary proceedings, under the standing orders any person may be excluded from today's meetings at my discretion or by order of the committee. The proceedings are being recorded by Hansard and broadcast live on the parliament's website. Media may be present and will be subject to the chair's direction at all times. The media rules endorsed by the committee are available from committee staff if required.

Today's proceedings provide an opportunity for the committee to meet with the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner to discuss a number of matters relating to our respective roles in scrutinising the work of the Crime and Corruption Commission. The committee will first meet with the parliamentary commissioner in public and will then close its public session and continue its meeting with the parliamentary commissioner in private.

As previously mentioned, the members for Capalaba and Oodgeroo are apologies for today's proceedings. Do members have any declarations of interest relevant to the public session? There are no declarations.

Members have been provided with a copy of the agenda for today's meeting. I move that the agenda for Thursday, 10 November 2022, as circulated, be adopted. All those in favour? All those against? That is carried.

Members have been provided with the parliamentary commissioner's public report to the committee for the period 10 August 2022 to 8 November 2022. I move that the committee authorises the publication of that report. All those in favour? All those against? That is carried.

Members have been provided with a secretariat briefing paper in relation to the parliamentary commissioner's public report. Members may wish to ask questions about it, but before that we should hear from the parliamentary commissioner.

### **KUNDE, Mr Mitchell, Principal Legal Officer, Office of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commission**

### **WOODFORD, Mr Michael, Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner**

**CHAIR:** Welcome. Mr Woodford, I invite you to make a brief opening statement, after which we will have some questions.

**Mr Woodford:** Thank you, Chair. I am here today to update the committee on the work that the office has undertaken since I was last here on Friday, 19 August. Our report to the committee dated 8 November has been supplied to you in advance of the meeting. That report details, in broad scope, the operations that have been undertaken over the last period.

The table of key outputs commences on page 2. As you are aware, the parliamentary commissioner has various statutory obligations and functions that are found in various state and Commonwealth legislation. From a performance point of view, the office has continued to execute its statutory functions in a timely manner. The auditing undertaken of various records under various legislative provisions concerning both the CCC and the QPS has revealed sound compliance with statutory obligations by those bodies upon our inspections.

I have previously reported to the committee that in undertaking the functions I have engaged with various officers, particularly at the CCC, in order to better understand the manner in which certain functions are undertaken and captured in the documents that we are interested in. I have done that for a reason—as I have expressed before, to hopefully assist with things moving forward in a positive way with the way records are dealt with in those organisations.

Last week we started to see the fruits of that come through in some small measure. I am pleased to report that I have received some small correspondence from the commission last week in relation to some proposed changes to a particular statutory recording system. I was aware of the difficulties with it that existed within the organisation. I view that as being a very positive step. I am glad to see that that has happened given the engagement I have had with the various people.

Planning for the next half-yearly statutory inspection and reporting tasks is in hand and that will commence in early in 2023. A number of section 329 advices have come in. Part of our function is to look at those and consider and report. They have all been completed.

There were four separate committee referrals in the office over that period. One is completed and reported and another is pretty well completed. The report has been received by the committee from the CCC and we will put some notes together to accompany that in next couple of days. The other two are works in progress. They are the introductory matters that I wanted to inform the committee of.

**CHAIR:** Thank you, Mr Woodford. We appreciate that. I will ask firstly whether the deputy chair or any delegates of the deputy chair have any questions for the commissioner.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** I note that you tabled the report this morning. It is a fair summary that you are pretty happy with how procedures are working at the moment in terms of inspections?

**Mr Woodford:** Yes, I am. There was nothing that we found on our examinations at the QPS or the CCC that gave any cause for alarm. We are very happy with what we are seeing there.

**CHAIR:** Mr Woodford, in relation to the report that was tabled this morning about the surveillance device warrants, I note in that report you concluded that the CCC comply with the legislation in all respects. One of the points that occurred to me as I read through the report was that the CCC had not undertaken a process of destruction of products of surveillance device warrants for some time—four years, I think it was.

**Mr Woodford:** Yes. It is funny that you should ask that question. When I mentioned earlier that there had been some discussions ongoing with personnel about systems in place, the correspondence we received late last week was about the changes in systems for destruction or related to destruction. That may have some bearing upon that.

**CHAIR:** To the extent that you are able, can you give us an indication about the volume of material the commission holds and its age?

**Mr SULLIVAN:** Chair, I am mindful that we are in a public hearing asking about material of a particular nature.

**CHAIR:** I understand. I am aware of that concern. That is why I have asked the question in a very general manner in terms of its age and its volume and not going to any particular operation or investigation. Mr Woodford, if you are not comfortable answering that, I understand. I felt that, given what was in the report—it had been stated that nothing has been done away with for four years and then before that it related to two particular operations, in 2011 and 2014—surely there must be some material being held over a very long period of time.

**Mr Woodford:** There is material that is held over an extended period. The whys and wherefores that it still exists are probably better asked of the CCC rather than me. I do know from my discussions with people in the tech area that there are some system issues with destruction. It is not as simple as we might think to go and get a box of files up and put it in the incinerator.

**CHAIR:** I understand.

**Mr Woodford:** You need to keep certain parts of the files for a long time—I mean decades. They have to be kept. Disentangling the parts of the files that you have to keep from the parts that you can destroy, as it has been explained to me, is not a simple task. If it were, believe me, the people I talk to there and the fellow in charge of pushing the button, if you like, would like nothing more than to be getting rid of records that they can because storage is an issue for them.

It is a problem they are acutely aware of. Having looked at the system they are going to put in place to change this thing related to destruction, when I am next there I was looking forward to having a conversation with the person who is in charge of that area and asking, 'How have things progressed now? Has it made your task easier?' I anticipate it is going to.

**CHAIR:** Thank you for that.

**Mr CRANDON:** I know you were using the example of getting a box and putting it into an incinerator. I understand that that might have just been bringing it back to the real world. Are any of the records required to be kept in their physical form as opposed to being able to be scanned and kept in electronic format?

**Mr Woodford:** Most of it is in electronic form. I think physical things are kept when they are operationally required to be kept. Then they would have their destruction protocols as to how many years post the end of a matter records need to be held onto. The act requires not recordings but things like who accessed this material on what date—all of those sorts of variables. You look at the act and you say to yourself, 'Well, you are not required to keep recordings but you are required to keep all of this information that only ever tells you who looked at what.' You are never going to look at the recording. You come to the view of: what is it all about? That is the way it is set up. The act requires these five paragraphs of things to be kept.

**CHAIR:** Mr Woodford and Mr Kunde, you have been fairly busy.

**Mr Woodford:** Yes. It has been a busy back end of the year, I think, because of the referrals from the committee but, in particular, the volume of material within some of the referrals.

**CHAIR:** When you look around the country at some of your counterparts—I know that you are going to be meeting with them soon—do you think there is scope or perhaps it could be argued that you could use more resources in this office, or are you going okay at the moment?

**Mr Woodford:** We are going fine at the moment. It depends where the committee wants to drive the office. If the committee gets to a view that it wants the office to be more expansionary in the level of oversight or matters that are coming through then, yes, that push would need to lead into more resourcing perhaps. It has been a very busy period. You would have seen that from the volume in the reports, but we have managed. It is not a matter where I have thought I need to come and visit you and say, 'We need more resources.' Mr Kunde may have a different view, but I think we have been functioning quite well.

**Mr Kunde:** We are getting by.

**CHAIR:** Welcome, member for Cooper. Do you have any declarations?

**Ms BUSH:** I have no declarations. In relation to the Connolly-Ryan COI documents—I think that was in the last report you gave us as an ongoing matter—is there update on that? Can you let us know of the progress?

**Mr Woodford:** Yes. There was supposed to be a meeting scheduled with the Attorney's staff. Mr Kunde and I were ready, willing and able and we want nothing more than to see those records safely stored.

**Ms BUSH:** Yes, I am sure.

**Mr Woodford:** The meeting did not eventuate for whatever reason. It was not something at our end. We are waiting for further engagement. I think everyone is on the same page with what we want to happen to the records, but that formal process needs to happen. I think Mr Kunde might send them a letter next week. We will make a call to find out what is happening.

**CHAIR:** Mr Woodford and Mr Kunde, thank you very much for your efforts. We very much appreciate it. I realise, Mr Woodford, that you are also in private practice, so you would be a very busy man. Thank you for all your work. Members, that concludes the public meeting with the parliamentary commissioner. The committee will continue its meeting with the commissioner and Mr Kunde in private session. Thank you for everyone who has been watching at home.

**The committee adjourned at 1.20 pm.**