



Speech by

Hon. Neil Roberts

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

Hansard Tuesday, 4 August 2009

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Police Service, Crime and Misconduct Commission Report

Hon. NS ROBERTS (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services) (9.59 am): On 22 July the Crime and Misconduct Commission released a report into allegations of misconduct by 25 current and former members of the Queensland Police Service. The nature of the matters raised in the CMC's report, *Dangerous Liaisons*, is of significant concern to the government, the people of Queensland and the Queensland Police Service. The reported activity of the police officers involved tarnishes the reputation of the thousands of decent and honest police officers who diligently serve the community and is simply unacceptable. The CMC report provides a powerful reminder of the importance of the accountability framework currently in place, underpinned by the strong investigative powers of the independent watchdog, the Crime and Misconduct Commission. It also reinforces the need for constant vigilance against slippages in ethical conduct.

The Queensland Police Service and Queensland Corrective Services actively cooperated and supported the CMC during the course of these investigations—a matter noted by the CMC in its report. The matters referred to in the CMC's report first came to light in 2005. Since that time, a number of matters have already been addressed by both the Queensland Police Service and Corrective Services. These include changes to operational practice and policy regarding the management and interaction with police informants; detective training has been reviewed and updated to incorporate the lessons from the investigations; and the approval processes to remove prisoners for investigative purposes have been strengthened. Additionally, and since the release of the report, the Queensland Police Service has initiated an action plan to ensure that appropriate responses and actions are put in place to address the matters that have been raised.

This includes distributing additional copies of the report throughout the service—1,450 copies have been obtained for distribution to police stations; providing representations in relation to the broader issues in the report to all officers in charge, supervisors and plain-clothes personnel state-wide, and the first of a series of face-to-face briefings for senior officers, I am advised, commences today; meeting and working with the CMC to identify and deal with any current issues of concern; reviewing all existing training and development courses to ensure the issues raised in the report are being suitably addressed, and in that light a new minimising ethical slippage education package has been prepared and will be rolled out across the state; and meeting with the CMC and reviewing progress on these matters in 12 months time.

The appropriateness of the QPS systems and processes to manage complaints will also be canvassed as part of the Premier's integrity and accountability green paper. The CMC report is a timely reminder that we need constant vigilance and action against ethical slippages in the Queensland Police Service. The government fully supports the commissioner in his efforts to weed out those who do not adhere to the high ethical standards expected of all Queensland police officers. I seek leave to table a document detailing the current status of the police action plan in this regard.

Leave granted.

Tabled paper: Queensland Police Service Action Plan in response to Operation Capri report [\[627\]](#)