




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Record of Proceedings, 20 April 2016

CRIME AND CORRUPTION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (5.23 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Crime and Corruption Amendment Bill 2015. The Crime and Corruption Amendment Bill delivers one of the Palaszczuk government's key election commitments, that is, to restore the independence and integrity of the Crime and Corruption Commission. The proposed amendments to the Crime and Corruption Amendment Bill are paramount in creating the foundation for fair and just governance that the people of Queensland and, indeed, Australia expect.

This bill is about removing temptations and holding administrations accountable. It is about ensuring the public can have confidence in the integrity of government and the public sector. In a time that sees a growing trend in public perceptions that government and public sectors in general lack transparency and are prone to corruption, this bill is more important than ever to ensure that we earn and keep the trust of the people of Queensland. As noted recently in a report by Transparency International, corruption continues to dominate media coverage throughout the world, increasing interest in this issue and sparking a raft of new research into both public and private sector corruption. Transparency International also offers insight into what needs to happen to reverse corruption. They note that, while it is not the sole responsibility of governments, they are the ones with the greatest power to influence and create enabling environments for others in eliminating corruption. They also state—

They—

governments—

must fulfil promises, and ensure efforts aren't undermined in practice. Anti-corruption commissions are a prime example here: while their creation across the region is commendable, ongoing political interference and inadequate resources has meant many are unable to fulfil their mandate. This has to be addressed.

They are wise words indeed, and this is exactly the unfortunate reality we saw happen under the Newman government back in 2014. We saw the Crime and Corruption Commission stripped of its independence, stripped of its ability to anonymously investigate and research matters of concern and stripped of its ability to fully support the public sector agency in eliminating potential corruption within their departments. This is what the Palaszczuk government is determined to rectify.

This government intends to remove any potential government interference in the undertakings of the Crime and Corruption Commission and to ensure that the CCC has the resources and the platform to fulfil their mandate. The Crime and Corruption Amendment Bill will restore the independence and the effectiveness of the Crime and Corruption Commission. Of equal importance, this bill will also implement changes that will see the CCC playing a greater role in preventing corruption through improving systems and transparency within the public sector and through making it easier for members of the public to report matters of corruption of which they become aware.

It is within the abilities of those of us in the chamber to provide leadership and to create an enabling environment within the state of Queensland to combat crime and corruption. It is vital that we remain passionate, vigilant and committed to ensuring that all levels of administration uphold the values

of the people of our great state of Queensland. Ensuring that the Crime and Corruption Commission's chief executive officer is not a commissioner is consistent with best practice governance arrangements. The commission will consist of the chairperson, deputy chairperson and three, rather than two, part-time commissioners who are ordinary commissioners. This again will ensure that the commission has a broad range of expertise and skill.

The Crime and Corruption Amendment Bill takes a significant step in making the changes needed to re-establish in the people of the state of Queensland faith in their government, faith in leadership and faith that it is in the interests of the people and the broader community that they always be put first. I am proud to support the Crime and Corruption Amendment Bill 2015.