




Speech By  
**Mark Ryan**

**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 April 2016

**CRIME AND CORRUPTION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (5.48 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Crime and Corruption Amendment Bill 2015. It is a pleasure to speak to this bill. As some members of this House will know, in the 53rd Parliament I was a member of the predecessor committee, the PCMC, and of course last year, in the first year of the 55th Parliament, I was appointed to the PCCC. It is a great committee. It is a good role to play in ensuring integrity and accountability for Queensland.

I start by acknowledging not only the good work of the Attorney-General in bringing this bill to the parliament but also the good work of Labor in opposition in formulating some outstanding election commitments to restore integrity, accountability and transparency to government in Queensland. We took to the election some very strong election commitments around restoring integrity, transparency and accountability to government. Of course, we needed to, because of the trashing of those institutions by those opposite when in government.

Listening to the speeches tonight just emphasises to me how those opposite still do not get it. They just do not get it at all. They do not get the importance of integrity, transparency and accountability to government. They just do not get it. To hear the contributions of those opposite about why they will be opposing this bill just highlights to me not only the damage that they did to those wonderful institutions when they were in government but also how they remain committed to ensuring that whenever they are in government integrity, transparency and accountability are not at the fore of their decision-making. In opposition we made a number of election commitments, and I am so pleased that this bill is implementing the next tranche of election commitments. For the purposes of the record, I note that those commitments included restoring the bipartisan support of the PCCC to the appointment process for the CEO of the CCC; limiting temporary appointments for the CCC chair, commissioners and CEO to three months unless there is bipartisan support; ensuring that the CEO is not a CCC commissioner; reinstating the CCC's corruption prevention function as well as the CCC's independence when undertaking its research functions; allowing complaints to be made anonymously to the CCC; and widening the definition of 'corrupt conduct'.

My colleague the member for Bulimba made a great contribution to this debate. For the purposes of time I am not going to restate a lot of the history that the member for Bulimba provided to the House during her contribution other than to say that these changes that are contained in the bill before the House today will go a long way to improving integrity, transparency and accountability in Queensland. I want to touch on two of those improvements, the first being to allow anonymous complaints about corruption to be made to the CCC.

Before the changes by the previous government, complaints were always allowed to be anonymous to the then CMC and before that the CJC. That is very important because people taking the step of raising a question of transparency, integrity or accountability about a concern that they might have should be afforded the opportunity to make those complaints anonymously. Not only does that

create a culture of people being prepared to make complaints; it also creates some assurances for those people that they may be able to avoid any retribution that may follow should that complaint be made public. Restoring the right of complainants to make anonymous complaints will go a long way to not only enhancing integrity, accountability and transparency in Queensland but also encouraging greater numbers of complaints, and we should not be fearful of complaints. This is the thing the opposition does not get: it thinks it is a great thing to try to limit the number of complaints. It is actually something we should be encouraging. We should be creating a culture where if people have concerns about the integrity of a government department or the integrity of a government officer or the integrity of an elected representative—

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Elmes): Order! Member for Kawana.

**Mr RYAN:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. We should be creating a culture where people feel comfortable to make a complaint and where they have the confidence to make a complaint. We should be encouraging that. I would much rather someone make a complaint and for it to be investigated and found to be unsubstantiated than for someone who feels fearful to not make a complaint and for the bad behaviour to continue. We should be creating a culture where people feel comfortable to make complaints and we should not be saying to people that we will make it more difficult by imposing penalties if they make a statutory declaration and that if something they perceive is incorrect or lacking in integrity is then proven otherwise there will then be consequences that go along with that. We should be creating a culture of complaint because a culture of complaint enhances integrity, transparency and accountability when it comes to ensuring that government does business the way it should.

The other thing I want to speak about briefly is restoring bipartisan support of the PCCC to the appointment process for the CEO. The CEO of the CCC is an important role. It is an important role which should be filled in a way which ensures that the people of Queensland have absolute faith in how the CCC does its work. Restoring that bipartisan approach will not only create a better CCC but also encourage greater faith in the CCC. This is necessary reform for Queensland. Not only does it honour our election commitments but it goes a long way to repairing the damage that the other side did in government to our integrity institution, the CCC. I encourage all members to support this bill.