




Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

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CRIME AND CORRUPTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (6.32 pm): I rise as a member of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to speak to the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. This bill that is before the House today is an endorsement of the Palaszczuk government's ongoing commitment to providing the Crime and Corruption Commission with the tools it needs to continue the work of ensuring integrity in our public institutions. It also fulfils an election commitment to bring stage 2 of this bill before the House in this term. This bill demonstrates the Palaszczuk government's commitment to deal with corruption at all levels of government.

I would like to thank the Leader of the House for her longstanding commitment to the people of Queensland in ensuring that we have a robust and independent legal system which will deliver a corruption-fighting agency dedicated to the highest ideals. I would also like to express my thanks to the other members of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee and the secretariat for their insights and cooperation as we considered the bill.

As the Leader of the House indicated in her introductory remarks, this bill replicates the content of the bill which was introduced into the previous parliament and which lapsed when parliament was dissolved for the 2017 election. The bill received wide scrutiny by a previous parliamentary committee. The purpose of this bill is to provide greater clarity to the Crime and Corruption Commission by widening the definition and scope of 'corrupt conduct'. As we have seen in recent times, corrupt conduct can take many forms and is not always a simple case of an individual or group deriving benefit from unconscionable behaviour within the public sector. The new definition now defines 'corrupt conduct' as anything that undermines public confidence in public administration. As the business of government has grown increasingly reliant on public-private partnerships and outsourced service providers, there was a distinct need to widen the definition to encompass the new operational environment.

The second purpose of the bill is to incorporate into legislation a number of recommendations from the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee report No. 97. Chief amongst those recommendations was a lengthening of the time frame for a Queensland Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal review from 14 to 28 days for reviewable decisions, as well as amendments to the disclosure requirements which until now have prevented the transfer of a disciplinary matter to another entity if an employee moves jobs.

The definition is widened to capture certain conduct by people outside the public sector that impairs, or could impair, the public confidence in public administration, even where the actions of the public sector employee have not lacked propriety. This change is strongly supported by the commission and is consistent with recent amendments in New South Wales and Victoria. The amendment will enable the commission to oversee and investigate conduct such as collusive tendering and fraud in applications for licences or permits issued by government and is appropriate given the increasing degree of outsourcing and public-private partnerships in the delivery of government services.

Additionally, the Ombudsman will have greater discretion in his interactions and disclosure requirements when dealing with other state and federal agencies. Further, as a result of this bill being passed Queensland will be brought into line with other services that work to prevent the undermining of public administration. I commend the bill to the House.