




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Record of Proceedings, 1 November 2018

CRIME AND CORRUPTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (12.19 pm): I rise to speak today in favour of the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. I would like to start by thanking the Attorney-General for introducing the bill and the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for its consideration of the bill. The objectives of the bill are to deliver on the government's election commitment to widen the definition of 'corrupt conduct' and to implement recommendations of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee's report No. 97 titled *Review of the Crime and Corruption Commission* and report No. 99 titled *Report on a complaint by Mr Darren Hall*. This bill reinforces the ongoing commitment by this government to ensure that Queensland has a robust system that serves the people of this state and lives up to the highest standards of integrity. It recognises the important role of the commission in the fight against corruption in Queensland.

This bill will achieve its first objective by simplifying the definition of 'corrupt conduct' by removing the requirement that conduct is engaged in for the benefit of, or detriment to, a person under section 15(1)(c) and the list of additional matters, criminal offences or behaviours that could be corrupt conduct under section 15(2). This will assist public sector agencies in their interpretation and understanding of the requirements under the bill. The bill also widens the definition of 'corrupt conduct' by including certain conduct that impairs or could impair public confidence in public administration. This amendment is consistent with the commission's overriding responsibility to ensure public confidence and integrity in the Queensland public sector.

Yesterday we saw confusion amongst those opposite, as the member for Toowoomba South felt the definition was now too broad and yet the member for Toowoomba South felt it was not broad enough.

A government member interjected.

Ms PEASE: That is right. I take that interjection. I note that the new definition's requirement is an appropriate limitation to ensure the CCC's jurisdiction and coercive powers are only enlivened in appropriate circumstances.

The bill also includes amendments that will expand the commission's investigatory jurisdiction. The commission's corruption functions will be widened to allow the commission to investigate and deal with conduct liable to allow, encourage or cause corrupt conduct and conduct connected with corrupt conduct. These amendments are consistent with other jurisdictions and are similar to recent changes in both New South Wales and Victoria. They will ensure that the commission can continue to improve integrity and reduce the incidence of corruption in the public sector in Queensland.

The second objective of the bill is to implement recommendations of report No. 97 and report No. 99. In relation to report No. 97, the bill will implement the recommendations by lengthening the time frame to seek a review, streamlining disciplinary proceedings, improving disclosure provisions, widening information-sharing provisions and expressly authorising the derivative use of compelled evidence, among others.

Report No. 99 arises from a complaint made by Mr Hall, a former Queensland police officer, to the PCCC for investigation. To ensure procedural fairness and give effect to the recommendations of this report, the bill requires that the commission must not include adverse information about a person in a report which is to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly or published to the public under the CC Act unless before the report is prepared the commission gives the person an opportunity to make submissions about that information.

This is a robust bill that improves the independence and integrity of the Crime and Corruption Commission, which this government values so highly. We have engaged in wide consultation on this bill, which will once again deliver on the government's election commitment. I commend the bill to the House.