




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MACKAY

Record of Proceedings, 1 November 2018

CRIME AND CORRUPTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (12.33 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. Our collective communities across Queensland have an expectation of our Public Service that, no matter what the person's position or department, the systems of the state will be robust and delivered with integrity, honesty and probity with high standards of principles when delivering a service of dealing with public moneys and administration.

This bill being debated today will give the community confidence that there is a transparent system in place. It also gives those working within the Public Service the confidence of a defined process and definitions. This bill delivers an election commitment to widen the legislative definition of 'corrupt conduct' and also captures the conduct of people outside the public sector. There are arrangements with government and public-private partnerships. There must be confidence that there is no room for fraud on tendering or in relation to licensing.

The new definition of 'corrupt conduct' in new section 15(2) operates in the following way. The bill expands the definition of 'corrupt conduct' to capture the specific conduct of a person, regardless of whether the person holds or held an appointment in a unit of public administration. The requirements in new section 15(2) are cumulative, meaning that all elements need to be satisfied to establish the definition.

This bill responds to the increased outsourcing in the delivery of government services and the potential for private citizens participating in these service delivery arrangements to engage in corrupt conduct. The changes also align with the commission's overriding responsibility to promote public confidence in the integrity of the public sector.

In this age of instant and constant information, the community is aware of government projects. Questions are continually asked within the media and by contractors competing for work about process, fairness and transparency. The Mackay Ring Road, for example, is a \$500 million project that was scrutinised by the community when tenders were called. The community wanted to know that their taxes were being spent with quality, ethical companies that would deliver the project and that local businesses were treated fairly in the process. People in my community also show interest in the awarding of smaller contracts—for instance, maintenance on schools and other public buildings.

The types of conduct that may be captured by the new 'corrupt conduct' definition include the inclusion of the private sector engaging with government or the commission monitoring and investigating specific conduct that impairs public confidence in public administration, even where it does not involve a lack of propriety by a public sector employee. For example, the new definition would enable the commission to investigate the conduct of an employee of a private training company who accepted bribes from individuals with links to organised crime to provide qualifications to unqualified people so that they could obtain government issued licences.

The new definition proposed in the bill will provide the commission with the power to investigate, expose, prevent or educate about serious endemic collusion about tenders for government contracts or serious and systemic fraud in the making of applications for licences, permits or other authorities issued under Queensland legislation. This bill will give confidence to the community. I commend the bill to the House.