



Speech By  
**Corrine McMillan**


**MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD**

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**INTEGRITY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

**PUBLIC SECTOR BILL**

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (4.56 pm): I rise to speak on the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. I once asked one of my students the meaning of integrity after he had made an unwise decision. He said, 'Miss, integrity is doing what is right even when nobody is watching.' I responded, 'Yes, integrity is about doing what is right, moral and ethical, not necessarily what is popular.' The Queensland Labor Party has a proven track record of delivering services and programs for all Queenslanders, especially those who experience times of vulnerability in our community. I recognise and take this opportunity to acknowledge all of the public servants of my community. The vast majority of public servants work incredibly hard every day to serve the people of Queensland. They are honest, hardworking, they act with integrity and have an unquestionable commitment to service.

Public service can be a challenging and difficult job. I know; I have spent my entire career of 28 years as a servant for the people of Queensland, a career that I am proud of and that has and continues to be incredibly rewarding. There is no more important job than one that requires a service to others. I also acknowledge the 1,470 public servants of my community who lost their jobs under the Newman LNP government, many of whom have shared with me the personal devastation of this experience and many still suffering the psychological consequences of being sacked for no apparent reason other than alleged austerity measures. One such person is Debbie from Mansfield, a consummate professional and former employee of the Queensland Police Service. Her eyes still fill with tears when she speaks of the day her employment was terminated.

Our state Labor government has a proven track record to address the integrity of our democratic political systems and the machinery of government structures and procedures to deliver integrity reform to improve transparency and accountability. This year the Palaszczuk government commissioned two significant integrity reports, Professor Peter Coaldrake released his final report on 28 June 2022, titled *Let the sunshine in*, which made 14 recommendations to strengthen accountability and integrity measures in the Queensland government. As the Premier has clearly stated, our government will accept all of his recommendations, lock, stock and barrel. The recommendations are bold, they are comprehensive, they are visionary and they are exactly what we want for this state. Once implemented, Queensland will have the most transparent and accountable government in Australia.

The bill is the first tranche of legislation responding to Professor Peter Coaldrake's recommendations in his *Let the sunshine in* report and Kevin Yearbury's 2021 *Strategic review of the Integrity Commissioner's functions* report. The main purpose of this bill is to strengthen and enhance the independence of the Queensland Auditor-General, the Queensland Audit Office and the Queensland Integrity Commissioner.

The bill also amends the declaration of interests requirements and strengthens the regulation of lobbyists by introducing an offence for unregistered lobbying under the Integrity Act 2009. As recommended in the Yearbury review and supported by the Coaldrake review, a new offence for

unregistered lobbying, clause 51, is also proposed in the bill to encourage ethical lobbying and will underline the fact that lobbying can and does have a significant impact on the business of government. The offence provision of 200 penalty units is commensurate with existing offences under the act.

The Coaldrake report recommended the independence of the Auditor-General be strengthened, extending its scope according to its status as an officer of the parliament. The report also made more specific recommendations about the Auditor-General: the Auditor-General Act 2009 be amended to allow for the Auditor-General's employment of QOA staff under that act rather than under the Public Service Act 2008; the Auditor-General to independently set basic rates for audit fees with the Treasurer's approval; the Auditor-General be given the discretion to undertake performance audits on government owned corporations; and that other outstanding recommendations from the 2013 Finance and Administration Committee inquiry and the 2017 strategic review be implemented. This bill largely implements these recommendations with some exceptions in relation to the 2013 FAC inquiry and the 2017 strategic review recommendations.

In contrast, the LNP has failed to support the review of our state's accountability and integrity procedures and processes. The LNP challenged our lowering of the donation disclosure threshold in the Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeal. The LNP voted against the banning of property developer donations on the recommendation of the CCC and the LNP voted against the legislation that enabled the introduction of real-time disclosure. Those are just a few integrity reforms that the LNP has challenged or voted against. They sacked and stood over the CCC chairman, they sacked the CCC parliamentary committee in the dead of the night and they voted against every integrity measure that we have introduced. There is a solid track record against integrity reform by the LNP. The big question is whether the member for Broadwater will commit to Professor Coaldrake's reforms. I commend this bill to the House.