




Speech By
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PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (3.45 pm): I rise today to speak to the report titled *Inquiry into the Crime and Corruption Commission's investigation of former councillors of Logan City Council; and related matters*. As a member of the committee I was really proud to be involved in the writing of this report. There are many findings and many recommendations canvassed in this report, and I do not propose to summarise those in five minutes because I simply cannot. I do not know that anybody could, not even our brilliant counsel assisting, who assisted us with the process.

The report is a good one and I certainly encourage members interested to learn more to read that report in its totality. I will be focusing my contribution today on a few specific recommendations. Before I do so, I want to thank some key people who worked so very hard on this inquiry. In doing so, I acknowledge that the member for Cooper and I came to this inquiry halfway through. We joined the committee on the same day. I think we both very much felt the weight of the work that had already been done and were keen to contribute as best we could.

I thank the formers members of the committee whose places we took, the members for Hervey Bay and Rockhampton. Of course, we joined the members for Stafford and Macalister, and I also recognise the efforts of the members for Scenic Rim, Oodgeroo and Coomera, who made up our committee. Without revealing the private business of our committee, I say that I really enjoyed working as a part of this group. I think we all appreciated the gravity of what it was we were working on.

I also thank our amazing QCs, Jonathan and Ben, from whom I learned so much; I was really in awe of them. They really assisted me in clarifying my thoughts. I thank the committee secretariat, who did such a mighty job, and all of the parliamentary staff who assisted, including our much loved barista—and three cheers for Andrew, who always makes my coffee just right.

An honourable member: The unsung hero of parliament.

Ms PUGH: That is right, although he is not unsung to me. The findings we made related to the issues that were identified. However, today I want to focus my contribution on the changes that will be made in order to continue to uphold public confidence in the all-important CCC. It goes without saying that the CCC is a vital institution in Queensland. Since the days of the Fitzgerald inquiry, Queenslanders have put their trust and their faith in this body. We in this House want to make sure that that trust remains strong.

As I said, I came to this committee in the middle of the inquiry. I really appreciated the guidance of other committee members on both sides of the House in helping me to come to grips with the voluminous material we needed to consider to reach the conclusions we did. I note the government have accepted the recommendations that are relevant to the government. The recommendation I want to focus on today is recommendation 4, which states—

The committee recommends that the Crime and Corruption Commission engage in reform of culture (including seeking external advice) to assist in creating a best practice organisational culture that aligns with the purpose, functions and goals of the Crime and Corruption Commission under the Crime and Corruption Act 2001, and to enhance public confidence in the organisation.

This recommendation is particularly important, in my opinion, because if a culture is entrenched you cannot change it by just changing a leader or changing staff. The hard work needs to be done internally, to look inward and reflect on what change is to be made. This work can be difficult for a number of reasons. That is why it is important that the CCC will be engaging external help, to provide an outside set of eyes to help conduct this work.

Similarly, recommendation 5 looks at the tenure of senior officers within the CCC with a similar view to ensuring there is renewal and the culture does not necessarily become entrenched. When all is said and done, I cannot overstate the importance both of the CCC and of Queenslanders having confidence in the CCC. That is the key part of this report to me. These recommendations are all about the public being able to have clear-cut confidence, knowing that this organisation is well equipped to continue to root out corruption in all its forms.