




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR THEODORE

Record of Proceedings, 20 August 2024

CRIME AND CORRUPTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (3.27 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. Firstly, I would like to thank my fellow committee members—the chair and all the other members. The bill before us today has been a long time coming if you think about it. Some of the recommendations from the original reports which recommended changes to the CC Act date back to 2016, so about eight years ago. I was talking to the member for Toowoomba North and saying that that is almost two-thirds of a child's average school life—eight years. It has taken eight years for this important legislation to make it here to this House.

The multiple reports which were tabled have given us the impetus for this debate today. Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee report No. 97, *Review of the Crime and Corruption Commission*, tabled on 30 June 2016, made 29 recommendations. Report No. 106, *Review of the Crime and Corruption Commission's activities*, tabled on 30 June 2021, made 30 recommendations. Report No. 108, *Inquiry into the Crime and Corruption Commission's investigation of former councillors of Logan City Council; and related matters*, was tabled on 2 December 2021. These were critically important reviews. That it has taken so long for legislation to come to this chamber shows how the Miles state government views the CCC. In later contributions in relation to estimates hearings, we will hear what the CCC chair said about these matters. In her introductory speech on the bill the Attorney-General said—

The CCC plays a critical role in Queensland's anti-corruption and integrity landscape and has various other important functions in combatting and reducing major crime, witness protections and civil confiscations.

Our local residents, the people of Queensland, expect the highest standards when it comes to government. Corruption must be weeded out and destroyed in every way possible, and that is what Queenslanders expect. Let's look at some of the recommendations made in those original reports. Report No. 106 states—

The committee recommends consideration be given to amending the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 to provide for a single non-renewable appointment for the Chairperson and Ordinary Commissioners of the Crime and Corruption Commission, not exceeding seven years.

That report was unanimous. Both sides felt that terms should be for no more than seven years but also stated that they could be shorter. Locking in seven years potentially harms bipartisanship in this parliament. The PCCC did recommend not exceeding seven years, but a shorter period would be far better and would ameliorate any potential negative impacts.

I refer to the 2021 five-yearly review and the PCCC's recommendation No. 2 relating to the definition of 'bipartisan support'. We can see over history how governments can potentially manipulate the appointment of CCC chairs. These amendments are worrying in terms of bipartisanship and open debate on this matter.

The bill further enhances executive powers for the selection of the CCC. This was not supported in the original PCCC report. We are expecting openness and transparency when it comes to these matters. Ensuring proper bipartisanship—both sides of politics—on the PCCC when putting forward individuals for these positions is very important. That is something on which this bill has failed. It is unfortunate that other recommendations made by the PCCC in its reports have not been acted on or implemented to date.