



Speech By  
**Hon. Steven Miles**


**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 February 2024

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Crime and Corruption Commission, Legislative Reform**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (10.05 am): I begin by congratulating the Prime Minister of Australia, Anthony Albanese, and his partner, Jodie Haydon, on their engagement. We wish them both the happiest of times together.

Queensland is well served by our hardworking journalists. The government supports their important role. That is why the Attorney-General will today introduce an expansion of shield laws. Its purpose is to protect Queensland journalists and their sources. We know how important the work our journalists do is, especially the gallery here at parliament, which is why we will limit the powers of the CCC. The bills will ensure journalists cannot be compelled to provide information or documents at a CCC hearing where a confidential source could potentially be identified, unless it is in the public interest. Another reform to the CCC that the government has been carefully considering is to what extent they should be able to publicly report in relation to their corruption investigations.

**Mr POWELL:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I apologise for interrupting the Premier's ministerial statement, but I am concerned that there is a bill on the table at present. I am worried that the Premier may be anticipating debate on that bill.

**Mr SPEAKER:** In this case, as the Premier is foreshadowing a government bill, it is not directly speaking to a private member's bill. I will allow it but, of course, if you can ensure you are treading carefully around that issue, Premier, it would be greatly appreciated.

**Mr MILES:** As the House would be aware, a recent decision of the High Court has found that they have no public reporting powers for corruption investigations. Finding the right balance between allowing the CCC to do their job while also protecting the rights of individuals is important. We saw in the case of the Logan councillors and Moreton Bay mayor Allan Sutherland that the CCC can impact the lives and livelihoods of individuals, even when no wrongdoing can be proved. That is why our government will seek independent advice on the matter. Former chief justice Catherine Holmes has been appointed to advise us on appropriate reporting powers. She is a highly-respected former judge, and I am grateful she agreed to this assignment. It is important that the CCC has the powers it needs to do its job, but as we have seen with shield laws, those powers should not necessarily be absolute. There are occasions where competing principles need to be considered. Ms Holmes is the best person to provide that advice to government and to highlight the most appropriate path forward.