



Speech By
Hon. Dale Last
MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

Record of Proceedings, 29 April 2025

CRIME AND CORRUPTION (RESTORING REPORTING POWERS) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (5.43 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025.

It is about giving the people of Queensland the government they deserve—a government that is fair, open, transparent and accountable. We owe it to Queensland.

Those are the words of the member for Mount Coot-tha on 7 May 2015.

Since then, a few things have happened. Firstly, the member for Mount Coot-tha then became the member for Murrumba, and then the member for Murrumba became the deputy premier and then he became the premier. I can tell members what did not happen: he did not deliver to Queenslanders what he himself said they were owed. The Crisafulli LNP government, on the other hand, will deliver all of those things and more when it comes to transparency. The delivery will be made via this bill. While the member for Murrumba and those opposite talked about transparency, we now know that what they meant was transparency when it suited them. They fought tooth and nail to keep reports hidden and spent taxpayers' money in the process. Not only did they fail to deliver transparency; they actually slugged Queenslanders to avoid it.

You can just picture the scene on 13 September 2023 when the High Court handed down its judgement that the CCC could not publicly release a report about a specific investigation. Hollywood would betray it as an evil villain rubbing his hands with glee, but in actual fact it was probably more about relief for those opposite. As we know, it was a relief because when the LNP introduced the bill to restore the CCC's powers, those opposite spoke strongly against it and the current shadow minister for health jumped to the defence of his former colleague, citing their human rights and saying there were no findings against them. What we now know is that the report that those opposite fought to keep secret revealed that the CCC found the former treasurer had in fact inappropriately interfered in the appointment of her under treasurer. In short, their claims that there were no findings against the former treasurer were only true because they kept the findings hidden.

The objectives of this bill are to restore the power to report publicly about corruption investigations as it was considered to exist before the High Court decision and to ensure that the CCC may also make public statements about these matters, to safeguard against the release of information to the public about corruption matters and circumstances where the risks or harms outweigh any benefits to be derived from releasing the information, and finally to ensure that any residual legal risk that might be attributable to the CCC and its officers in respect of the preparation and publication of past reports and statements is removed. This bill is about delivering what the current opposition leader promised to deliver almost 10 years ago—a promise that was not kept. It is completely ironic that members opposite are attempting to claim the moral high ground during the course of this debate. Queenslanders will never forget that, while in power, those opposite talked a big game when it came to transparency, and they have done their best to do that again during this debate.

Queenslanders will also never forget that it was the Crisafulli LNP government that revealed the truth. It was the LNP which ended the protection racket that Labor ran to protect the former treasurer. It is important that this bill enhances the independence of the CCC by ensuring that the CCC must give a report directly to the Speaker for tabling, at the same time providing the report to the Attorney-General and the chairperson of the PCCC.

Let me be clear: there is no place in Queensland for corruption, and when commitments are made they need to be honoured. Our commitment was to transparency for Queenslanders. Supporting this bill will send a clear message that our duty is to Queenslanders, not to our political mates. I call on all members to vote for transparency and to support this bill.