




Speech By  
**John Barounis**

**MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH**

---

Record of Proceedings, 29 April 2025

**CRIME AND CORRUPTION (RESTORING REPORTING POWERS) AMENDMENT  
BILL**

 **Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (5.36 pm): I rise to speak on the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025—a bill that delivers on a vital commitment by the Crisafulli LNP government to restore the openness, transparency and accountability that the people of Queensland rightfully expect from their elected representatives. This bill is fundamentally about one thing: restoring public trust—trust that was seriously damaged under the former Labor government. During the Trad and Carne CCC investigations, Queenslanders witnessed what happens when transparency is cast aside in favour of political self-preservation. We had a Labor government that not only fought to keep reports secret for years but also used taxpayer dollars to fight against the public's right to know the truth.

Thanks to the leadership of the Crisafulli LNP government, those reports were finally released. We fulfilled our election commitment and in doing so we showed Queenslanders what real transparency looks like. Now we understand why Labor fought so hard to keep them hidden. Queenslanders deserve to know the role their politicians play in public projects. They deserve a government that serves them, not one that serves itself. If we expect the public to trust us, then we must be willing to be held to account every step of the way.

My priority is to serve my electorate and the people of Maryborough. I am here to ensure that Maryborough is represented with strength, integrity and dedication. That is what my community expects, and it is what I am proudly working on delivering every single day. This bill not only fulfils a promise to strengthen the reporting powers of the Crime and Corruption Commission; it also brings to an end a long and shameful chapter in Queensland politics—one marred by secrecy, cover-ups and the erosion of public confidence under the former Labor government.

Let's not forget this is not the first time the LNP has tried to make improvements. In 2023, we introduced a similar amendment bill to address the same laws that had been identified by the High Court, but Labor ignored it. They ignored our efforts and, worse, they ignored the voices of everyday Queenslanders calling for honesty in government. Only in the final days of the Miles government did Labor introduce their own version of the bill, and even that lapsed when the parliament was dissolved.

The Crisafulli LNP government is now doing what Labor would not. This bill restores the CCC's power to report to the public, but does so responsibly. It introduces a clear set of criteria that the CCC must consider before releasing any information, whether in a report or a public statement. The safeguards ensure the CCC continues to: act independently, impartially and fairly, always in the public interest; operate with transparency and purpose; and make decisions consistent with the Human Rights Act 2019. These new considerations will apply to both reports and public statements, including media releases and web publications. This ensures the CCC can inform the public, when it is appropriate and it is possible to do so, without compromising fairness or integrity.

Let's be clear: the CCC is not a court. Its job is to investigate and hand over evidence to the appropriate authorities, whether for criminal prosecution or disciplinary action. This bill expressly limits the CCC's ability to make findings on whether someone is guilty of corrupt conduct or whether a prosecution should follow. That is not their role. However, if the CCC finds it necessary and appropriate to name someone and make adverse comments, the person involved must be given procedural fairness, as is required under the current act. To reinforce that, this bill clarifies the procedural fairness provision, introduces specific timeframes and provides a right to review time extension requests in the Supreme Court. It also revises how CCC reports are tabled, placing the decision solely with the CCC, not politicians. That is what independence looks like.

Unlike Labor, we will respect the CCC's independence and protect its discretion to make decisions without political interference. This is not just sound policy; it is essential governance. We, as elected representatives, have been entrusted with a great responsibility. The people of Queensland placed their confidence in us, and in return they deserve a government that is honest, transparent and accountable. My electorate is expecting that from me. I know how important it is for my electorate that their member be transparent and honest with them. For this short time, I have earned their trust, but I will continue to earn it because I will never stop fighting for my electorate.

Importantly, unlike Labor's lapsed bill, this legislation makes it clear that all past CCC reports and statements remain valid. This means that the CCC can restore those reports on its website and give legal certainty to the commission and its officers.

This bill is not just another reform; it is a promise kept—a promise of accountability, a promise of leadership and a promise that the Crisafulli LNP government will always put Queenslanders first. I commend the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025 to the House.