




Speech By  
**Natalie Marr**

**MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA**

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Record of Proceedings, 29 April 2025

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

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (3.46 pm): I rise today in support of the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill, a critical step towards restoring the accountability that our communities rightly expect and deserve. This bill is a direct and necessary response to the 2023 High Court decision in *Crime and Corruption Commission v Carne*, which significantly restricted the CCC's ability to report publicly on matters arising from its corruption investigations. That decision raised serious concerns about whether the commission could continue to fulfil its role in keeping Queenslanders informed, especially when misconduct or wrongdoing was uncovered within our public institutions. The public expect more and they deserve more.

Transparency and accountability—two cornerstones of public trust—were severely undermined by the former Labor government. Under their watch, integrity in public office was not just neglected; it was dragged through the mud and disrespected. This was a total disregard for those they are meant to represent—not Labor mates but the people of Queensland. The *Trad* and *Carne* matters were not just controversies; they were a complete failure of leadership and a disgraceful public spectacle. The Crime and Corruption Commission, once empowered to act decisively and keep the public informed, was instead turned into a political pawn, stripped of the very tools it needed to maintain integrity in our institutions.

By addressing the legal limitations imposed by the court, this amendment bill restores clarity, balance and confidence in the CCC's reporting powers. Most importantly, it ensures that transparency is not sacrificed to legal ambiguity and that Queenslanders are never left in the dark when matters of public interest arise. We are restoring the powers necessary for the CCC to do its job.

The referral of the CCC amendment bill to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee was an important step in strengthening Queensland's oversight and accountability framework. The submissions received by the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee in relation to this bill reflect a balanced engagement from across the community. What is clear from the breadth of submissions is a shared commitment to strengthening public trust in our institutions. This bill responds to that call by striking the right balance and restoring essential powers, while embedding clear responsible checks. Many submitters strongly supported the restoration of the CCC's reporting powers, recognising the importance of transparency and public accountability in our integrity framework. Others raised valid points about the need to ensure that safeguards are robust and that individual rights and the integrity of investigations are not compromised.

Crucially, the amendment bill introduces firm safeguards to prevent the release of corruption related information when the risks or potential harm outweigh the public's right to know. This marks a deliberate and considered balance between transparency and the integrity of investigations. Under the bill, the CCC's powers to report or to issue public statements are now subject to a new set of criteria, criteria that give real weight to existing legal obligations to act independently, fairly and in the public interest. These safeguards reinforce the CCC's duty to ensure impartiality and protect the fairness of

proceedings. Importantly, they also provide the CCC with flexibility to determine when disclosure truly serves the public interest without being boxed in by a rigid framework. The criteria are broad and non-exhaustive, allowing the CCC to consider all relevant factors before deciding whether to publish or to speak publicly. One of the core objectives of the Crime and Corruption Act is to strengthen integrity and reduce corruption within the public sector.

During the public hearing, in response to a question it was noted that this amendment bill imposes a higher standard on elected officials. I personally welcome that. I stand in this parliament because I believe in genuine change that holds members of parliament to account and lifts the standards of integrity expected in public life. For the residents of Thuringowa and the Townsville region, confidence in government relies on knowing that decisions are made transparently and that misconduct is not hidden from view. My community expects openness from those in power and they deserve to be informed, not left in the dark. People in our region of Townsville deserve to know that when wrongdoing occurs within public institutions it will be investigated thoroughly and reported transparently. Restoring the CCC's ability to report on corruption strengthens the public's faith in this government's commitment to integrity. This bill is not just about restoring powers; it is about rebuilding public confidence and sending the clear message that this government—the LNP Crisafulli government—will not tolerate corruption, it will not be ignored and it most certainly will not be hidden.

I extend my sincere thanks to the Attorney-General for her unwavering dedication and passion in bringing this important bill before the House. Her commitment to strengthening the foundations of integrity within our public institutions is evident in both her words and her actions. As she rightly stated, the Crime and Corruption Commission must be equipped with all the necessary tools to effectively raise standards and uphold ethical conduct across the public sector. I could not agree more. Her leadership on this matter reflects a clear commitment to the high standards of conduct and accountability that public service demands, and I commend her for driving this critical reform with purpose and conviction. As a member of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee, I am proud to stand in support of this bill which upholds transparency, accountability and trust in our public institutions.