




Speech By
Sean Dillon

MEMBER FOR GREGORY

Record of Proceedings, 30 April 2025

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

 **Mr DILLON** (Gregory—LNP) (4.06 pm): When you grow up in regional Queensland, like I and a few others in this place have, there is a lesson you learn early and you learn it well: when something goes wrong on a property or in town you do not hide it, you do not cover it up, you own it and you fix it. Out there, if you do not face problems head on, they only get worse. A broken fence you ignore today becomes a paddock full of missing stock tomorrow. A sick horse you pretend is not sick does not get better, it gets worse. The same is true of government. When governments start covering up, dodging scrutiny and protecting their mates instead of protecting the public, it is not just a bad look; it is a disease that sets in deep. That is why, on behalf of the people of Gregory, I am proud to support the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025—a bill that finally drags government back into the daylight where it belongs.

In Gregory, we believe trust is earned and once it is lost, it is hard to get back. The Jackie Trad saga and the Peter Carne scandal were not just lapses of judgement, they were breaches of public trust—acts of a former government more worried about saving face than saving Queensland's reputation. From Tambo to Boulia, people read these stories and shake their heads because if any of us tried that behaviour in a local business or sporting group in Gregory we would not last five minutes—we would be out the door, and rightly so.

One of the most important aspects of this bill for regional Queensland is the restoration of past CCC reports and statements to the public record where they belong. For too long, public access to information about government misconduct was treated as a luxury for those within the Brisbane bubble, but in Gregory, from Duaringa to Birdsville, our communities deserve to know the truth just as much as anyone living near George Street. This bill ensures the daylight of transparency shines all the way from Brisbane to Birdsville allowing every Queenslanders, no matter where they live, to hold government to account.

For Queenslanders, government decisions are not just theoretical debates; they have real and lasting impacts. When a rural hospital is understaffed, when a road goes unsealed, when a government service is withdrawn it is regional and remote communities like those in Gregory that feel the blow sharply. That is why the clearer procedural fairness rules in this bill matter as well. They ensure that when allegations arise and decisions are made there will be fairness, timeliness and a transparent right of review. This is about restoring trust not just in outcomes, but in the integrity of the processes that created them.

Every Queenslanders, whether they are living on the coast, in the suburbs or in the vast heart of our state, should feel like they are part of the decisions that shape their lives. By tearing down the walls of secrecy and dismantling the perception of an untouchable Brisbane elite, this bill helps restore a sense of unique unity across our state. Through this bill, the LNP Crisafulli government is showing the people of Gregory and every regional and remote Queenslanders they are not forgotten, they are not outside the system, they are the very heart of this state and their trust, their welfare and their future matter.

From transparent access to information to stronger procedural fairness to real empowerment of the CCC, this bill is not just about repairing a broken system; it is about healing the state. The LNP Crisafulli government is restoring faith that no matter where people live, good governance, transparency and accountability are their birthright, not a privilege. Most importantly, it puts the power to table reports back where it should belong: with the independent CCC, not at the whim of politicians. There will be no more ministers picking and choosing what the public gets to see. There will be no more hiding reports in the bottom drawer after an election so history can be quietly rewritten by those who would rather Queenslanders forget.

In Gregory, the cost of bad government is not theoretical; it is a hospital wing delayed, it is a road upgrade cancelled, it is a rural fire brigade left waiting for resources. When government loses its integrity it is regional Queensland that bears that brunt. That is why restoring transparency is not a political luxury; it is a practical necessity. The people of Gregory expect—and have expected for a long time—better. They expect governments to live by the same rules and values they do. They expect openness and accountability. They expect honesty, even when it is uncomfortable. With this bill, the LNP Crisafulli government are delivering what the people of Gregory and the whole of Queensland deserve.

There is also the crucial inclusion in this bill of the provisions to preserve the critical evidence that was in danger of being destroyed through Labor's contempt for process and a continual demonstration of their contempt for victims. This will not only ensure access to justice but allow time for the debacle at the DNA lab to be righted without the stigma of failed investigations and prosecutions or appeals further prolonging the pain and anguish of victims.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity for her personal dedication and skill in developing this legislation and working so diligently in such a short time to bring to this House legislation and the power to right the DNA crisis but also to ensure that people can have confidence in this government and the processes at play for the CCC.

The people of Queensland from Birdsville to Brisbane have waited long enough for a government that treats their trust with the respect it deserves. It is about restoring the faith that no matter where people live in Queensland, good governance, transparency and accountability are a fundamental right. This bill is a crucial step in making things right. On behalf of the people of Gregory, I strongly support this bill.