




Speech By
Hon. Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 29 April 2025

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

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (5.48 pm): I stand today to speak on the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025. The Crime and Corruption Commission is an important legacy that originated out of the Fitzgerald inquiry. It has had a number of different formats, but it goes to the very heart of ensuring that the public can have confidence in government and public officials and that there is transparency and openness with regard to their interactions and their behaviour.

Mr Russo interjected.

Mr MANDER: I cannot quite hear the member for Toohey, but he is mumbling something over there.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): If you have some comments you would like to make, member for Toohey, you can do it from your seat, thank you.

Mr MANDER: I would appreciate if the comments could at least be literate so I could understand and respond. Moving on, these are incredibly important principles that underline the public's confidence in government and in all of the processes that are associated with it. That is why this bill is so very important. It is giving it the power to do what it is meant to do; that is, to reveal to the public actions that may have been questionable, behaviour that might have been inappropriate and sometimes criminal behaviour so that that can be punished. There is no other way of saying it. We know those opposite talk a big game when it comes to fighting corruption and transparency, except when it relates to themselves. When it relates to themselves and it might be potentially embarrassing, they go running for the hills.

Mr Lister: Or running for the lawyers!

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the member for Southern Downs. Their efforts to hide the truth has cost taxpayers a lot of money and that is entirely inappropriate. Queenslanders need to be reminded of the extent they will go to to hide their own behaviour or protect their mates. There was no greater mate than the former deputy leader and treasurer of the previous government, Jackie Trad, the former member for South Brisbane.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Southern Downs, there have been enough comments without you.

Mr MANDER: I will not take that interjection from the member for Southern Downs.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Everton, you did not take the interjection and I have asked him to be quiet.

Mr MANDER: Exactly. Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I appreciate that. Wherever she seemed to go, controversy followed her—whether it was the appointment of a principal at one of her local schools, whether it was failing to declare a property that she could have benefited from with the Cross River Rail,

or whether it was calling the CCC chair on the weekend when he was 'in his trackie daks'—his quote—to let him know 'I just want to assure you that I am going to cooperate with you' after she had referred herself. I think we referred her as well. I think it was a double referral.

Ms Leahy interjected.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the Minister for Water. He was quite explicit about what he was doing that afternoon when he was interrupted by that phone call—the point being, whenever the former member for South Brisbane went, controversy followed. This is just another example of where there were serious allegations about interference in the appointment process of a Public Service position. Again, for all the cries for transparency and making sure we go through the right interview process, there was a lot of smoke and it would appear that there was more than smoke. This is all about making the CCC investigation into that public. The former government for months and months spent money on making sure that it did not become public. Now why do you do that? Well, you do that because you are trying to hide something, and that is exactly what was happening here.

We know that the former member for South Brisbane was one of the left-wing factional heavies—or the factional heavy—who headed up that faction of the Labor Party. Her factional colleagues did everything possible to protect her, and it was only this side that said, 'No. That is not right' and we fought it in opposition. I think we tried to introduce a bill. We tried to pass motions to make sure this type of information was exposed to the public. The CCC asked for it as well. They were frustrated by this, which was the incredible thing. They wanted to be transparent and they were not allowed to be because of the High Court ruling, so the change of law was necessary. That is why we are here today—to bring that about.

It was not only the former member for South Brisbane; there was Mr Peter Carne as well who was the Public Trustee boss and a known Labor Party associate—had been for years. Again, they were trying to hide conduct that he was accused of. It was quite unbelievable that somebody in such a prestigious and high position of power could try to get away with this type of behaviour. His friends from the now opposition tried everything in their power to hide that behaviour as well. I can only have great empathy and sympathy for the staff of the Public Trustee. That office was mired in controversy for a whole range of other reasons and now we have insight into why that might have been the case. The leadership of that organisation was obviously not up to scratch, both in terms of competency and appropriateness. When this behaviour became open and public, it again explained why those opposite tried to hide how these public officials operated from everyday Queenslanders.

This bill tonight goes to the heart of those situations; it goes to the heart of transparency. I congratulate the Attorney-General, who is also the Minister for Integrity. It is important that these types of things are transparent. Those opposite like to quote Mr Fitzgerald when it suits them, but they are not happy to quote Mr Fitzgerald when it does not suit them. These are the types of things that I would have thought he would be aghast at. Maybe I should ring up Mr Fitzgerald and see how he felt about these things, like the then deputy opposition leader did, to see what sorts of comments she could eke out of him. Maybe that is something we should try one day to see if we can get some comments, but we do not do that type of thing. We let judges retire in peace and the tranquillity of the lifestyle they are enjoying—

Mr Bennett: And earnt.

Mr MANDER: And earnt—I take that interjection from the member for Burnett—for a service well done to the Queensland community.

An honourable member: Hear, hear!

Mr MANDER: Hear, hear. Thank you. As I draw to the end of my contribution, I would like to say how important this bill is. I want to thank the government whip for allowing me this opportunity. I appreciate that.

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr MANDER: You as well. Member for Toowoomba North, you have done an outstanding job allowing yourself to be dropped out and me in and I appreciate that.

Mr Hunt: Me, too.

Mr MANDER: The chair of the committee, Mr Marty Hunt, deserves a mention as I get down to my last 10 seconds. I am quite proud of my own contribution as well. Thank you.