

Question on Notice
No. 335
Asked on 30 March 2023

Ms F Simpson asked Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Hon. A Palaszczuk)—

QUESTION:

Will the Premier advise when each of the recommendations of Professor Coaldrake's 'Let the sunshine in' report will be fully implemented?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government has, and continues to, demonstrate its dedication to further strengthening and improving Queensland's integrity framework. Queensland has a strong and comprehensive integrity and accountability framework.

Professor Peter Coaldrake AO released his final report focusing on culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector less than ten months ago.

The government gave immediate support for Professor Coaldrake's 14 recommendations and started work to respond to the recommended reforms establishing a Taskforce and Steering Committee to guide implementation.

These are nation leading reforms and as Professor Coaldrake himself has said, it is important to take the time to get this right.

While responding to the recommendations requires careful consideration, significant progress has been made.

Key achievements to date include:

- Passage of the *Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2022* which includes key integrity reforms to strengthen the independence of the Auditor-General and Integrity Commissioner (including by creating the Office of the Integrity Commissioner) and creates a criminal offence for unregistered lobbying.
- Investing \$4 million over 4 years in the Office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner to better provide integrity advice and regulate lobbyists.
- Commencing the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010* review, led by eminent retired Supreme Court Justice, Mr Alan Wilson KC, to ensure protections for whistleblowers are appropriate.
- Ensuring stability of the public sector leadership by passing the *Public Sector Act 2022* which provides for five-year initial appointment terms for Directors-General.
- Strengthening the role of the former Public Service Commission, now the Public Sector Commission, as a system leader, steward and enabler through the *Public Sector Act 2022*.
- Investing \$18 million over 5 years in the Public Sector Commission to deliver a Public Sector of Excellence with a culture of performance and integrity across government.

- Creating a new framework for the oversight of complaints against senior public sector employees devolved by the Crime and Corruption Commission which commenced on 1 March 2023.
- Improving the Queensland Government complaints form and webpage to make it easier for people to make a complaint, a first step toward improving complaint management processes.
- Commencing work on a mandatory data breach notification scheme.

The Government is giving careful consideration to Professor Coaldrake's other recommendations and is taking the time to make sure these comprehensive reforms are effective and genuinely improve the Queensland integrity framework.

Over the next 12 months, the Government will be continuing the program of reform recommended by the Coaldrake Report. A second tranche of amending legislation is expected to be before the Parliament later this year.

Our Government has also committed to becoming the most transparent Government in Australia through the proactive release of Cabinet documents. This is a fundamental change, and we are working through how this can best be achieved.

These remaining reforms are complex, and it is appropriate to take the time and effort to get them right.