

**Legislative Council
Hansard
Thursday 3 September 2026**

[excerpt...]

The President, **Mr Farrell**, took the Chair at 11.00 a.m., acknowledged the Traditional People and read Prayers.

**INTEGRITY COMMISSION AMENDMENT (MANDATORY
NOTIFICATIONS) BILL 2025 (No. 69)**

Second Reading

[[4.56 p.m.]

Ms WEBB (Nelson) - I rise to speak on this bill. It's very pleasing to see a bill come to us that is giving effect to implementation of some of the very long-awaited Cox Review recommendations. That is, of course, now past a decade that we've been waiting for the implementation of some of these and this bill will be followed by another bill not too far already in the pipeline and then we're anticipating a third bill coming through hopefully early next year to do some further implementation of the Cox Review recommendations, finally, Mr President. And, of course, not only is it the Cox Review recommendations, some of which have been given effect to in this bill, it also relates to recommendations arising out of the commission of inquiry.

In some sense, I think, it's probably quite accurate to say that the commission of inquiry process and the recommendations that came out of it, and the government's real intent to grapple with and implement those have kicked along the Cox Review recommendations as well and brought them to fruition, thank goodness. It needed that extra impetus, it would appear because otherwise that work was languishing and that's not a reflection on any of the people within the department who were working on those, it was a reflection on the government's commitment to actually bringing them forward one day.

So, here we are and it's really pleasing to see this.

I won't go into detail. I appreciate the detail that was provided in the Second Reading Speech was quite extensive and I appreciate the member for Mersey going through again some of the detail of the bill.

One of the things that this puts me to mind of that I just wanted to note in my contribution is that the commission of inquiry process highlighted so many ways in which our systems of dealing with problematic behaviour with potential misconduct, with allegations of abuse, our systems had so many holes in them. There were so many gaps through which these things could fall. There was no comprehensive accountability there and that was really clearly identified through the commission of inquiry process, so what we've done through committing to and then implementing the recommendations is we've begun to build a much more robust and comprehensive system to ensure that those gaps can't be there to fall through anymore. This is a really important ingredient in building that system. In some sense it means that the Integrity Commission will now have a clearer overarching line of sight through these mandatory notifications that are made to it, under this bill, of instances in which there are potential misconduct or serious misconduct matters that arise across government agencies of all kinds

and it can no longer be discretionary about what line of sight the Integrity Commission might have because of what's been either reported or not reported to it. And that's a really important thing. We've done a similar thing.

Certainly, there's a lot of resonance across the reportable conduct scheme that we put in place as a response to the commission of inquiry, and with the Child and Youth Safety framework, and we have the Independent Regulator, who is the overarching line of sight for that system, so that any of the funded agencies that come under the Child and Youth Safe framework - organisation framework, I should say, CYSOG. If instances of reportable conduct arise, while they deal with it themselves initially at the agency level, they have to report it to the Independent Regulator, who then has a line of sight and ultimately provides some quality assurance that these matters are being investigated and dealt with properly and, if necessary, can step in and do that investigation, or that work as well.

In a similar way, this is empowering our Integrity Commission to have that same catch-all and overarching line of sight about matters to do with misconduct arising in particular agencies that will now be reported through. The Integrity Commission will have the ability to monitor, in some sense; to check in on whether things are being investigated and followed up on properly; and will be able to step into that process if they deem it to be required. I'm very interested that what it allows the Integrity Commission to do will be to have the ability to note patterns or particular common areas of concern. That sort of overarching visibility and monitoring will allow us to better design things like training, how we do professional development in these areas and further improve our monitoring, reporting and investigating systems. So, I think there's such a lot of opportunity here for building more robust system and process around how we deal with matters of misconduct of all sorts. So, this is really pleasing to see.

As the member for Mersey mentioned, I think the bill was made even stronger and better by the amendments made in the other place. It is particularly important that the aspect was removed where if people felt that something had already been reported by another person they didn't then have to report it. That absolutely needed to go, of course, everyone has to meet the obligation. You can't escape it just because you think somebody else might have reported it in the first instance. It doesn't hurt to have things notified through twice, if that's what happens, that's what happens.

There are a couple of things I wanted to ask and they can either be addressed in the Leader's summing up, or if there's not enough time to address them in the summing up, we can readily address them just briefly in committee stage because they're not large things. One related to the commencements on proclamation. The member for Mersey, in his contribution seemed to question a similar thing that I was thinking as well. He wondered whether the guidelines, for example, would be available at the time that the act is proclaimed, and comes into effect. My question was broadly in that area as well. It was that, given that it is on proclamation rather than on royal assent, presumably that's to give some time for systems to be put in place, so I'm wondering what detail can be provided to us about what is required in terms of a system development to be put in place, prior to it being ready to be proclaimed and brought into effect? Maybe the Leader could be provided with some description on that. If not for the summing up, then I'm happy to put the question again during committee stage.

Then, once we understand what system development we're anticipating to be in place before proclamation occurs, what timeline do we have in mind for that? That may have already been mentioned and I've missed it somewhere, but I wouldn't mind it being repeated, if possible. And what was the other question I had, Mr. President? Let me just refresh my memory. The other thing that I wondered about was - I'm assuming and perhaps it can just be

confirmed - that once this becomes part of the role of the Integrity Commission, and we are providing funding to the Integrity Commission, it would appear from the government in order to undertake this new function when it comes into effect, we are also expecting, I assume, the Integrity Commission to be able to report on this fairly comprehensively in its annual report, I'm imagining. I'm interested to have some confirmation of that. Obviously not in a specific identifying way, but in terms of data and reporting of trends or patterns or analysis that comes out of that from the Integrity Commission. I'm assuming that's going to be information that becomes available in the public domain through Integrity Commission reporting, so perhaps that could be touched on by the Leader, again either in summing up or at some point during committee stage.

One of the other areas that I'm interested in is there's some element of backdating I think that can occur here where things that have arisen prior to this coming to effect, can be notified into this system. I'm wondering what we're anticipating in terms of a potential initial surge or backlog that might be brought forward once this is in place and available and required. Perhaps, there could be some comments around that. Other than that, I'm just very pleased to see this bill and supportive of it coming to us and I hope there isn't too much time lag before it's actually proclaimed and in place. I certainly support the bill.