

CORRUPTION, CRIME AND MISCONDUCT AMENDMENT BILL 2023 — CONSULTATION

641. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the parliamentary secretary representing the Attorney General:

I refer to the Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Amendment Bill 2023.

- (1) With whom did the drafters of the bill consult on the drafting of clause 6 of the bill, in particular proposed section 9C, which will have the effect of avoiding the previous safeguarding requirement for majority and bipartisan agreement among the membership of the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission to facilitate the appointment of a proposed Corruption and Crime Commissioner?
- (2) On whose instruction was this proposed section drafted?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided to me by the Attorney General.

- (1)–(2) As the member will recall, an identified flaw in the current appointment process is that it is susceptible to inappropriate manipulation, as a single member of the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission may indefinitely block the appointment of a candidate recommended by the nominating committee chaired by the Honourable Chief Justice of Western Australia. The government approved the drafting of a bill to address this flaw. The amendments will preserve the standing committee's ability to robustly scrutinise proposed appointments and its ability to prevent the appointment of an unsuitable person through the exercise of a veto. An individual member will no longer be able to disrupt the appointment process on his or her own by simply declining to provide support for a proposed appointment. This approach is aligned with processes in New South Wales and Victoria for the appointment of the heads of their equivalent pre-eminent anti-corruption bodies.

Hon Nick Goiran interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! We do not have supplementary questions, particularly from members who did not ask the initial question.