

CORRUPTION, CRIME AND MISCONDUCT AMENDMENT BILL 2023 —
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S COMMENTS

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

I refer to the Attorney General's 29 August 2023 contribution during debate on the Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Amendment Bill 2023, and I specifically draw his attention to his claims that "the reappointment of the Honourable John McKechnie, KC, was stymied by a corrupt Liberal, Jim Chown" and, further, his insinuation that Mr Chown abused his parliamentary committee membership to "put the block on the investigation into himself".

- (1) How did he form the view that Mr Chown was the target of a Corruption and Crime Commission investigation at the time the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission blocked the reappointment of the Honourable John McKechnie, KC?
- (2) Where is the evidence that Mr Chown was "under investigation at the time" by the CCC, and can he table that evidence?
- (3) Is it true that Mr Chown was under investigation?

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. It is in the first person, but it does refer to the Attorney General.

- (1)–(3) I formed the view that Mr Chown had been under investigation after being in the presence of the notifier, when the notifier was advised by the CCC that the allegation of serious misconduct or corruption against Mr Chown was under active assessment. I was named in a disclosure notice as a person to whom this information may be disclosed in the public interest. It is my understanding that, as Operation Betelgeuse had been concluded and Mr Chown had ceased to be a member of Parliament, the matter was not pursued further.