

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSION

Thirteenth Report — “Annual Report 2018–19” — Tabling

MS M.M. QUIRK (Girrawheen) [10.16 am]: I present for tabling the thirteenth report of the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission titled “Annual Report 2018–19”.

[See paper 3060.]

Ms M.M. QUIRK: I will be brief, but this year has been a big year for corruption fighters and I anticipate that next year will likely be even busier. At the outset, I thank the research staff, who work incredibly hard: Vanessa Beckingham, the principal research officer, and Lucy Roberts and Sylvia Wolf, the research officers. The 2018–19 reporting period has been a particularly busy one for the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission. We have continued our oversight role of the work of the Corruption and Crime Commission and the parliamentary inspector, while also progressing an inquiry into corruption risk in public procurement. We also began a new inquiry into the oversight of investigations into excessive use of force by police officers. As we are required to do by statute, we were consulted and had to deliberate on the appointment of acting parliamentary inspectors Hon John Chaney, SC, and Matthew Howard, SC. We also played a consultative role in the appointment of the acting Corruption and Crime Commissioner, Mr Scott Ellis.

Members will see from the report that a number of witnesses were called. We had 54 witnesses called, 17 formal evidence hearings, 25 deliberative meetings, 10 briefings, four reports tabled and 12 report findings tabled. As I said, it was an incredibly busy year covering a diverse range of areas under our brief. During the reporting period, three committee members and a staff member attended the International Anti-Corruption Conference in Copenhagen. It is the conference to go to, in the sense that there were leading global operatives on governance and anticorruption and by attending this conference, we were able to be informed about up-to-date approaches to corruption prevention. I have tried to think of what the collective noun might be for corruption fighters. I have decided it must be a disinfectant of corruption fighters! Everyone who was anyone was at that conference, so it short-circuited a lot of our inquiries in the area of procurement. The committee is currently engaged in finalising an inquiry into corruption risk in public procurement. We anticipate reporting early next year. Due to the complexity of the inquiry and the breadth of issues we need to canvass, we have twice extended our reporting date.

I thank my colleagues Hon Jim Chown, MLC, who is the deputy chair; the member for Kalamunda, Mr Matthew Hughes; and Hon Alison Xamon, MLC. Members of the committee were assiduous and very conscientious in our inquiries. I particularly want to extend my thanks to those members who filled in admirably while I had an extended absence due to illness.