

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSION

Tenth Report — “With extraordinary power... The Corruption and Crime Commission’s execution of a search warrant on the Shire of Halls Creek” — Tabling

HON JIM CHOWN (Agricultural) [10.08 am]: I am directed to present the tenth report of the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission, titled “With extraordinary power... The Corruption and Crime Commission’s execution of a search warrant on the Shire of Halls Creek”.

[See paper 2509.]

Hon JIM CHOWN: This report of the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission primarily tables two reports of other bodies. The first report, by the Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission, is titled “Misconduct by an Officer of the Corruption and Crime Commission: Report on the Execution of a Search Warrant on the Shire of Halls Creek”. The second report, by the Corruption and Crime Commission, is titled “The Commission’s policy on executing search warrants”, and is a direct response to the parliamentary inspector’s report.

The committee intends for these reports to stand without too much committee commentary. However, the committee notes that the Corruption and Crime Commission has extraordinary powers that it can call upon when undertaking its investigations. A search warrant authorises commission officers to enter and search a premises without the consent of the person occupying the premises. It interferes with the privacy and rights of a person. It is incumbent on the commission and its officers to recognise the magnitude of this power, and treat it with an appropriate level of respect. It must act beyond reproach so its investigations cannot be called into question. The commission appears to be aware of the gravity of exercising such power. In addition to legislative requirements, the commission has in place a policy that provides guidance to its officers when applying for and executing search warrants. This policy has been amended to incorporate some of the parliamentary inspector’s concerns as outlined in his report. The committee will continue to monitor the commission’s use of search warrants, including the effectiveness of recent policy amendments, to ensure that this extraordinary power is used with care.