

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSION**

*Fourth Report — “Parliamentary Inspector’s report on a complaint by  
Dr Robert Cunningham and Ms Catherine Atoms” — Tabling*

**HON JIM CHOWN (Agricultural)** [10.16 am]: I am directed to present the fourth report of the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission entitled “Parliamentary Inspector’s report on a complaint by Dr Robert Cunningham and Ms Catherine Atoms”.

[See paper 753.]

**Hon JIM CHOWN:** This report is worthy of a read, and I encourage everybody in this house to look at it. It deals with an event that took place on 2 November 2008 and the subsequent police internal investigation that ended up in court. The report details a number of issues but first it demonstrates how valuable it is to have an independent authority such as the Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission and his oversight in examining issues such as this, and the provision of independent advice that he gives to the Parliament and also to the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission. The parliamentary inspector does it without fear or favour. Secondly, the report sets out a course of conduct that was taken by the Corruption and Crime Commission and, to a lesser extent, WA Police. It reflects badly on both of these institutions. Thirdly, the report begs the question that if the commission declines to independently investigate a matter such as this, what characteristics of a case would it be prepared to take on?

I think it is worthy of the minute or so that I have left to read out the recommendations of this report. Recommendation 1 states —

That the Corruption and Crime Commission recommends to the Commissioner of Police that the conduct of the police in this matter is reinvestigated by experienced investigators unconnected to the original internal investigation. Focus would be on ascertaining whether any criminal conduct on the part of police occurred and if so, consideration be given to appropriate prosecution and disciplinary proceedings.

Recommendation 2 states —

That the Corruption and Crime Commission reassess and report on the conduct of the police involved in the complaint made by Dr Cunningham and Ms Atoms, in the light of all relevant facts, including those established upon investigation and having regard to the findings made by Her Honour Judge Davis in CUNNINGHAM—v—TRAYNOR [2016] WADC 168.

Once again, I encourage everybody in this house to read this report. I know we get a number of reports and most of them are pretty boring to read, but this report has a great deal of relevance on why the Corruption and Crime Commission was put in place, why we have a parliamentary committee and why we have an independent parliamentary inspector to oversight authorities.