

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSION

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

HON JIM CHOWN (Agricultural) [10.08 am]: I am directed to present the thirteenth report of the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission titled “Annual Report 2018–19”.

[See paper 3452.]

Hon JIM CHOWN: This reporting period was a busy one for the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission. The committee continued its oversight of the work of the Corruption and Crime Commission and the parliamentary inspector, while also progressing its inquiry into corruption risk in public procurement. It also began to scope a new inquiry into the oversight of investigations into excessive use of force by police officers.

Important work completed by the committee during the reporting period includes a role in the appointment of acting parliamentary inspectors, Hon John Chaney, SC, and Matthew Howard, SC. The committee also played a role in the appointment of the Acting Corruption and Crime Commissioner, Mr Scott Ellis.

A highlight for the committee was attending the eighteenth International Anti-Corruption Conference in October 2018. The chair attended with two other committee members and gave a presentation. This biennial conference is a leading global forum on governance and anti-corruption.

By attending this conference, the committee was informed about up-to-date approaches to corruption prevention. It was also able to gather important evidence in relation to its ongoing inquiry into corruption risk in public sector procurement, without embarking on additional travel.

During 2018–19, the committee progressed its inquiry into corruption risk in public procurement. This was undertaken as a part of its function to report to the Parliament on enhancing corruption prevention practices in the public sector. This extensive investigative inquiry was initiated in late 2017 and it continued throughout the entire 2018–19 reporting period. As members will be aware, several investigations into corrupt practices in public sector procurement have been carried out by the Corruption and Crime Commission in recent times. These have reinforced the importance of the committee’s inquiry. The committee has twice extended its reporting date, due to the breadth and complexity of the matters canvassed as part of the committee’s inquiry. The committee now expects to table the inquiry’s report in early 2020.

The committee looks forward to continuing its important work throughout 2019–20. I commend the report to the house.