



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND JUSTICE STANDING COMMITTEE

TREATMENT OF EVIDENCE—SUBMISSIONS

This document has been designed to provide additional guidance about making a submission to the Inquiry into the Protection of Crowded Places from Terrorist Acts. The *Making a submission to a Parliamentary Committee of the Legislative Assembly* booklet, available on the inquiry page at www.parliament.wa.gov.au/cdjsc, provides further information about the submission process.

The Committee appreciates that, to fully address the inquiry terms of reference, you may be required to provide sensitive or confidential information. It recognises that it is not necessarily in the public interest for such information to be publicly available.

However, the Committee is an avenue of communication between Parliament and the Western Australian community; the Committee provides a forum through which the public can be involved in issues within the Committee's purview. Committees also assist the Parliament to monitor and review legislation, administration and expenditure. For the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee, this involves reporting to the Legislative Assembly and necessarily involves a certain level of disclosure.

To balance the competing interests in this inquiry, the Committee has resolved that it will accept closed submissions provided that they are accompanied by:

1. A brief explanation as to why the submission should be accepted as a closed submission; and
2. A companion submission, in which confidential information is either redacted or rephrased, which will be accepted as an open submission and published on the Committee's website.

The Committee has also resolved that highly sensitive security documents, such as risk management plans and emergency management plans, will be accepted as *in camera* submissions.

Further, should the Committee include any closed evidence in its final report, it will inform relevant stakeholders prior to publication. Any concerns about the publication of the information can be raised with the Committee at that time. However, the Committee may choose not to alter the content of its report.

Closed submissions are confidential, and no one may publish or disclose any part of the submission received by the Committee unless the Committee itself resolves to do so. If the Committee does not resolve to disclose or publish the information, that submission may not be disclosed for at least ten years.

In camera submissions are confidential and may only be published or disclosed by the Committee with your written approval. If you do not authorise the disclosure of your *in camera* submission, it remains confidential and only may be made public after 30 years. If you are seeking to make an *in camera* submission, you should contact the A/Principal Research Officer for advice well before sending in your submission as there are restrictions on the handling, use and publication of closed and *in camera* submissions. It should be noted that it is rare for a committee to agree to this level of protection.

If you would like further clarity about this process, please contact the Committee's A/Principal Research Officer prior to making a submission on 9222 7467.