



Report of the Committee on the Ombudsman, the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission and the Crime Commission – Review of the Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994 (Report 3/56 – October 2017)

Government Response

A resolution was passed in the Legislative Assembly on 1 June 2016 and in the Legislative Council on 2 June 2016 that the Committee on the Ombudsman, the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission and the Crime Commission (**Committee**) conduct the statutory review of the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994 (PID Act)* and inquire into related matters. The Committee released its report (**Report**) on 23 October 2017.

The Committee's recommendations are designed to simplify the disclosure process, improve remedies for detrimental action, refine reporting requirements, and clarify the PID Act.

The Government supports making it simpler for public officials to make public interest disclosures, and improving protections and remedies for those who suffer detrimental action. In doing so, it will be important to continue to protect the reputation of individuals against defamation and discourage public disclosure of confidential information.

The Government will prepare a Bill to reform the public interest disclosures system in accordance with these principles and the Committee's recommendations.

The Public Interest Disclosures Steering Committee (**PID Steering Committee**), chaired by the Ombudsman, is an advisory body established under the PID Act to provide advice to the Premier on the operation of the PID Act and recommendations for reform. The PID Steering Committee was consulted on the Committee's recommendations and its views have been considered in the preparation of this response.

The PID Steering Committee will be asked to examine, in detail, the implementation issues arising from the Committee's recommendations and to consider the draft Bill prepared in response to the Committee's report.