

## **Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment (Ethics Committee) Bill 2003**

### **Explanatory note**

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.

#### Overview of Bill

Part 7A of the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988* (the **ICAC Act**) establishes a statutory committee called the Standing Ethics Committee:

(a) to prepare and review codes of conduct for members of the Legislative Assembly, and

(b) to carry out educative and advisory work on ethical standards applying to members of the Legislative Assembly.

Part 7A of the ICAC Act requires the Legislative Council to designate one of its existing committees to carry out equivalent functions in relation to members of the Legislative Council. The Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics has been designated for this purpose.

The objects of this Bill are:

(a) to replace the statutory Standing Ethics Committee, providing instead for the Legislative Assembly to designate a committee to carry out the functions concerned, in line with the provisions applying to the Legislative Council, and

(b) to require the designated committees to review the codes of conduct applying to members of the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council, respectively, on a 4-yearly basis, rather than the current 2-yearly basis.

#### Outline of provisions

**Clause 1** sets out the name (also called the short title) of the proposed Act.

**Clause 2** provides for the commencement of the proposed Act on a day or days to be appointed by proclamation.

**Clause 3** is a formal provision that gives effect to the amendments to the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988* set out in Schedule 1.

#### **Schedule 1 Amendments**

**Schedule 1 [1] and [7]** replace the requirement for the codes of conduct applying to members of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly, respectively, to be reviewed at least once in each period of 2 years, with a requirement that they be reviewed at least once every 4 years.

**Schedule 1 [2]** provides for the Legislative Assembly to designate one of its committees to carry out functions relating to the code of conduct and ethical standards applying to members of the Legislative Assembly, in place of the existing Standing Ethics Committee. **Schedule 1 [3], [5], [6] and [8]** make consequential amendments.

**Schedule 1 [4]** enables the committee designated by the Legislative Assembly to appoint any member of the public for the purpose of assisting the committee to carry out any of its functions in relation to the Legislative Assembly's code of conduct, including the review of the code of conduct.

**Schedule 1 [9]** enables the making of regulations of a savings and transitional nature as a consequence of the enactment of the proposed Act.