



Tabled, by leave,

Housson

Clerk of the Parliaments

14 / 03 / 24

## INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION AMENDMENT BILL 2024

### STATEMENT OF PUBLIC INTEREST

#### **Need: Why is the policy needed based on factual evidence and stakeholder input?**

The Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment Bill 2024 (**Bill**) proposes to amend the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988* (**ICAC Act**) to:

- implement the Government response to recommendation 8 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (**ICAC**)'s report in its *Investigation into the Conduct of the then Member of Parliament for Wagga Wagga and then Premier and Others, known as Operation Keppel* (**Operation Keppel Report**)
- allow certain information disclosed under the ICAC Act to be further disclosed by the recipient in particular circumstances.

#### **Objectives: What is the policy's objective couched in terms of the public interest?**

The Bill ensures that ICAC remains a strong and effective independent integrity agency. It is in the public interest to make it a legislative requirement for the NSW Government to respond to any corruption prevention recommendations that are directed to it, and for the ICAC to have an appropriate legislative framework that enables the efficient and effective exercise of its principal functions.

#### **Options: What alternative policies and mechanisms were considered in advance of the bill?**

The Government considers that the policy is best implemented by legislative amendment, in accordance with the specific recommendation made by the ICAC in the Operation Keppel Report, and as requested by the Chief Commissioner of the ICAC.

#### **Analysis: What were the pros/cons and benefits/costs of each option considered?**

The Bill does not impose any appreciable cost or burden on the public or any group of the public and so the relative merits of alternative options have not been analysed.

#### **Pathway: What are the timetable and steps for the policy's rollout and who will administer it?**

If enacted, the Bill will commence on assent.

#### **Consultation: Were the views of affected stakeholders sought and considered in making the policy?**

No public consultation was undertaken in relation to the Bill. The amendments are the result of a recommendation by the ICAC in the Operation Keppel Report, and a request by the Chief Commissioner of the ICAC.