



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 1 – PREMIER AND FINANCE

MEDIA RELEASE

INQUIRY INTO THE PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES BILL 2021 – REPORT TABLED

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
23 NOVEMBER 2021

An Upper House committee has today tabled its report for the inquiry into the Public Interest Disclosures Bill 2021.

This bill will repeal the existing *Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994* and replace it with a new framework for protecting public officials who disclose serious wrongdoing in the public sector. It has been brought forward in response to previous parliamentary inquiries that found the existing Act is overly complex, meaning people who expose wrongdoing in the public sector may be left without protection due to technicalities. This new bill is restructured and clarifies responsibilities for agencies dealing with public interest disclosures.

Chair of the Committee, the Hon Tara Moriarty MLC, said: 'Protections for public officials who raise issues of corruption, maladministration and waste are important to transparent and accountable government. New South Wales was one of the first jurisdictions in Australia to legislate to protect public interest disclosures in 1994. While that legislation has been amended over the years, gaps have emerged over time. This new bill addresses some gaps identified by previous parliamentary inquiries, and enhances protections for whistleblowers within the New South Wales public sector.'

'The committee has heard there is broad support for this bill from stakeholders within and outside government. It is widely welcomed as an important improvement to the current Act. That said, the committee inquiry has highlighted a number of areas where drafting could be clarified, and where further improvement in future may be required.'

'Further, an effective public interest disclosures scheme requires ongoing oversight and monitoring. We encourage the government to ensure the upfront and ongoing resourcing to enable this scheme to be effectively implemented, and to continue to review the legislation to address issues that may emerge in future.'

The committee's report and other inquiry related documents can be found on the committee's website [here](#).

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For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Tara Moriarty MLC, on 9230 2393