

CHIEF JUSTICE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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8 June 2012

The Hon Adele Farina MLC Chairman Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statute Review Parliament House PERTH WA 6000

Dear Ms Farina

Inquiry into Community Protection (Offender Reporting) Amendment Bill 2011

Thank you for your letter of 24 May 2012 inviting a submission on the impact of the Bill on Western Australia's parliamentary sovereignty and law-making powers.

I must say that it does not seem to me that the Bill has any impact upon the parliamentary sovereignty or law-making powers of Western Australia. However, assuming that your request extends to an invitation for submissions on other aspects of the Bill, I would offer the following observations.

The Bill would not appear to have any significant impact upon the operations of the Supreme Court, although its provisions may have some impact upon the operations of the lower courts, particularly the Magistrates Court, in the event that proceedings are taken for breach of the provisions to be introduced by the Bill. However, beyond that general observation, I do not wish to make any submission in relation to any particular provision of the Bill.

I would also observe that I assume that this Bill does not represent the government's response to the recommendations contained in the report of the WA Law Reform Commission on the general subject of the Act

published in January this year (Project 101). Generally speaking, it is my view that the recommendations made by the Commission were very sensible, and I would hope that government would accept and act upon those recommendations without significant delay.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bill.

Yours sincerely

The Hon Wayne Martin

Chief Justice of Western Australia

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