



JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSION

Tel: (08) 9222 7 857
Fax: (08) 9222 7804
Email: jscccc@parliament.wa.gov.au

MEDIA RELEASE

From: Ms M.M. Quirk, MLA,
Chair

To: **ALL MEDIA**

Date: **23 April 2020**

REAPPOINTMENT OF THE CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSIONER, JOHN MCKECHNIE QC

The Committee met on 22 April 2020.

It took into account the matters which were recently brought to the Committee's attention by the Premier.

Again it was unable to reach either a bipartisan or a majority decision in support of the recommendation to reappoint the current incumbent.

The Committee operates under Standing Order 270:

"Committee deliberations will be conducted in closed session."

However, because of unfounded public speculation about the motives for the Committee's previous deliberations, it has resolved to unequivocally reject any suggestion that the motivation for any members not supporting the appointment recommendation was the Corruption and Crime Commission's focus on parliamentary electoral allowances.

A range of reasons were canvassed at length. As has been the practice since the Committee's inception, all points of view by members were made in good faith and given respectful consideration.

The nature of those discussions is not detailed because it includes information provided by third parties in confidence and matters which may impact on the operational performance of the Commission.

As has been the previous practice, the Committee interviewed all persons on the list considered by the nominating committee. We note in the report of the nominating committee that, although the incumbent is described as outstanding, the observation is also made that *“each of the nominees is qualified for appointment to the position of Commissioner.”*

This Committee notes that a suggested 2016 amendment to the provisions of the *Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003* dealing with the appointment of both the Commissioner and Parliamentary Inspector has never been introduced.

That recommendation occurred after a similar dilemma had arisen where the previous Joint Standing Committee *“recommended to the Premier that he appoint a person other than the proposed candidate due to a specific operational reason for the Commission.”* (See JSCCCC report: *The efficiency and timeliness of the current appointment process for Commissioners and Parliamentary Inspectors of the CCC*, Report No. 31, tabled in November 2016)

Given support for the incumbent by both the Opposition Leader and the Premier, discussion on what did, or did not, occur in the Committee, and imputing motives to individuals, does not progress a constructive way forward.

The Committee further notes that the Parliamentary Inspector’s position has recently become vacant and an analogous process must be followed under section 189 of the *Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003*. To the extent that the current process for appointments is deficient, any amendments should take into account the need to amend that section.

**For further information, please contact
Ms Margaret Quirk, MLA on 0409 038 162**