

Division 35: Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission, \$659 000 —

Ms J.M. Freeman, Chair.

Mr J.R. Quigley, Attorney General.

Hon J.A. Chaney, SC, Acting Parliamentary Inspector.

Mr S. Kerr, Executive Director, Corporate Services Division, Department of Justice.

Ms S.E. Burnside, Acting Assistant to the Parliamentary Inspector.

Mr J. Lee, Principal Policy Adviser.

Mr D. Emerson, Senior Policy Adviser.

[Witnesses introduced.]

The CHAIR: This estimates committee will be reported by Hansard. The daily proof *Hansard* will be available the following day. The Chair will ensure that as many questions as possible are asked and answered and that both questions and answers are short and to the point. The estimates committee's consideration of the estimates will be restricted to discussion of those items for which a vote of money is proposed in the consolidated account. Questions must be clearly related to a page number, item, program or amount in the current division. Members should give these details in preface to their question. If a division or service is the responsibility of more than one minister, a minister shall be examined only in relation to their portfolio responsibilities.

The Attorney General may agree to provide supplementary information to the committee rather than asking that the question be put on notice for the next sitting week. I ask the Attorney General to clearly indicate what supplementary information he agrees to provide and I will then allocate a reference number. If supplementary information is to be provided, I seek the Attorney General's cooperation in ensuring that it is delivered to the principal clerk by Friday, 30 October 2020. I caution members that if the Attorney General asks that a matter be put on notice, it is up to the member to lodge the question on notice through the online questions system.

I give the call to the member for Hillarys.

Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS: Thank you and welcome. I refer to page 508 and significant issues impacting the agency. The only one listed is the retirement on 31 March of the Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission, the late Hon Michael Murray. We all pay regards to him for his service and contribution to the state and offer condolences to his family.

Can the Attorney General update us on the process underway to appoint a new parliamentary inspector?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: Certainly. It has gone through Executive Council and the new parliamentary inspector is Mr Matthew Zilko, SC. For many years, Mr Zilko, SC, was the chairperson of the Legal Practice Board and actively practised as a barrister. From memory, he was over 40 years in practice. He comes highly recommended by the nominating committee. His appointment followed a similar process to the one that the Commissioner of the Corruption and Crime Commission goes through. The position was advertised nationally, followed by candidate interviews with the nominating committee. The committee recommended three names to the Premier, who in turn nominated Mr Zilko to the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission. Only last week, through Exco, Mr Zilko's appointment was confirmed. His commission commences in a few weeks because he is finishing an arbitration hearing that he has been involved in.

Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS: Can the Attorney General confirm that he will be operating full time?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: Mr Zilko will be operating as a full-time Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission.

Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS: Will the two part-time commissioners continue?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: They will continue as reserves, if you like. We have a full-time commissioner now.

Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS: Excellent.

The appropriation was recommended.

Meeting suspended from 3.58 to 4.15 pm