

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION

Sixteenth Report — “Criminal Investigation Amendment Bill 2009” — Tabling

Hon Michael Mischin presented the sixteenth report of the Standing Committee on Legislation in relation to the “Criminal Investigation Amendment Bill 2009”, and on his motion it was resolved —

That the report do lie upon the table and be printed.

[See paper 2752.]

Statement by Chairman

HON MICHAEL MISCHIN (North Metropolitan — Parliamentary Secretary) [10.07 am] — by leave: I wish to make a few remarks by way of explanation of the time it has taken the committee to produce and present the report.

The Criminal Investigation Amendment Bill 2009 was referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation on the initiative of the government on 26 November last year. The house directed the committee to report on not only the bill, but also the policy informing it. The bill gave rise to controversial and difficult issues of public policy and the balance to be struck between the government’s responsibility to protect its citizens and concerns over impositions on civil liberties. The committee sought evidence from a wide variety of sources and has considered comprehensively and in detail the issues thrown up by the bill. In some instances, the committee encountered difficulty obtaining the evidence it sought and so its work was delayed. The assimilation and consideration of the evidence required time, and the settling of the report was an arduous and lengthy process. I am informed that the committee met 39 times for just over a total of 159 hours. I have heard tell that that may be a record.

I trust that the house will, when perusing the report, now have a better understanding of the reason for the time that has been necessary. On behalf of the committee, I thank the house for its indulgence in extending the time for the delivery of the report.