



QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT

COMMITTEES

Annual Report 2023-24



Report No. 111, 57th Parliament
Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee

August 2024

Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee of the 57th Parliament

Chair	Mr Jon Krause MP, Member for Scenic Rim
Deputy Chair	Hon Stirling Hinchliffe MP, Member for Sandgate
Members¹	Mr Don Brown MP, Member for Capalaba
	Mr Michael Crandon MP, Member for Coomera
	Mr James Martin MP, Member for Stretton
	Mr Lachlan Millar MP, Member for Gregory
	Ms Jess Pugh MP, Member for Mount Ommaney



Jon Krause MP



Hon Stirling Hinchliffe MP



Don Brown MP



Michael Crandon MP



James Martin MP



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All web address references are current at the time of publishing.

Acknowledgements

The committee acknowledges the assistance provided by the Committee Secretariat, the Crime and Corruption Commission, the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner and their office, and individuals who have contributed to the work of the committee.

¹ Jimmy Sullivan MP, Member for Stafford, Jonty Bush MP, Member for Cooper and Dr Mark Robinson MP, Member for Oodgeroo were members of the committee until 13 February 2024.
Hon Stirling Hinchliffe MP, Member for Sandgate, James Martin MP, Member for Stretton and Lachlan Millar MP, Member for Gregory were appointed to the committee on 13 February 2024.

Contents

Chair's foreword	1
Report in brief	2
1 Functions of the committee	3
2 Crime and Corruption Commission	4
3 Oversight of the Crime and Corruption Commission	4
3.1 Monitoring and reviewing the CCC	4
3.2 5 year review of the CCC	5
3.3 Complaints about the CCC	5
3.3.1 Complaints received from the public	6
3.3.2 Notifications from the CCC	6
3.4 Examining reports of the CCC	6
3.5 Reporting to the Legislative Assembly	7
3.6 Participating in the appointment of CCC commissioners	7
4 Mechanisms available to the committee	7
4.1 Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner	8
4.1.1 Functions of the Parliamentary Commissioner	8
4.1.2 Assistance provided by the Parliamentary Commissioner	9
5 Committee expenditure	9
Appendix A: Meeting attendance record	10
Meeting attendance record, 2023-24 financial year	10

Chair's foreword

This report details the activities of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

In accordance with section 108 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, this report includes a summary of issues considered by the committee, a statement of revenue and spending for the year, and a list of committee meetings and members' attendance.

A key function of the committee is, under section 292(a) of the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*, to monitor and review the performance of the Crime and Corruption Commission's functions. The committee carried out this function primarily by considering complaints made about the CCC's performance, and by holding public hearings with the CCC at which the committee was able to ask questions directly about the CCC's performance of its functions.

A prominent matter raised in these public hearings, both by committee members and by the CCC itself, was the inability, following the High Court of Australia's decision in *Crime and Corruption Commission v Carne* in September 2023, for the CCC to publicly report on corruption investigations undertaken pursuant to its corruption function. This decision took away a key function of the CCC that the people of Queensland had since 1989 understood the CCC (and its predecessors) to have. The Chairperson of the CCC noted at a public hearing on 15 September 2023 that the CCC had written to the Government and requested urgent legislative reform to address this issue. At the time of tabling this report, almost a year on from that public hearing, it appears that reforms to restore the public reporting power will not progress through the House prior to the dissolution of the 57th Parliament.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to the work of the committee during this reporting period.

I thank other committee members for their contribution to the committee's work, and the committee's secretariat and parliamentary staff for their professional support throughout the year, and indeed, since the beginning of the 57th Parliament. The role of the PCCC is unique among parliamentary committees and requires both members and secretariat to undertake a considerable amount of complex work involving the review of documents, correspondence, complaints and policy issues. In carrying out the committee's 5-year review in 2021, and the inquiry into the CCC's Logan City Council investigation (also in 2021), together with other monitoring and oversight functions of a more general nature, I am of the view that this committee has contributed to an overall improvement in the position of the CCC.



Jon Krause MP

Chair

Report in brief

The Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee (committee) is established under the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* (CC Act) as the parliamentary committee responsible for overseeing the operations of the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC). It is through the committee that the CCC is accountable to the Parliament and to the people of Queensland.

In the 2023-24 financial year, the committee:

 <p>finalised 21 complaints</p>	 <p>held 16 oversight meetings</p>	 <p>finalised 42 section 329 notifications</p>
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In 2023-24, the committee:

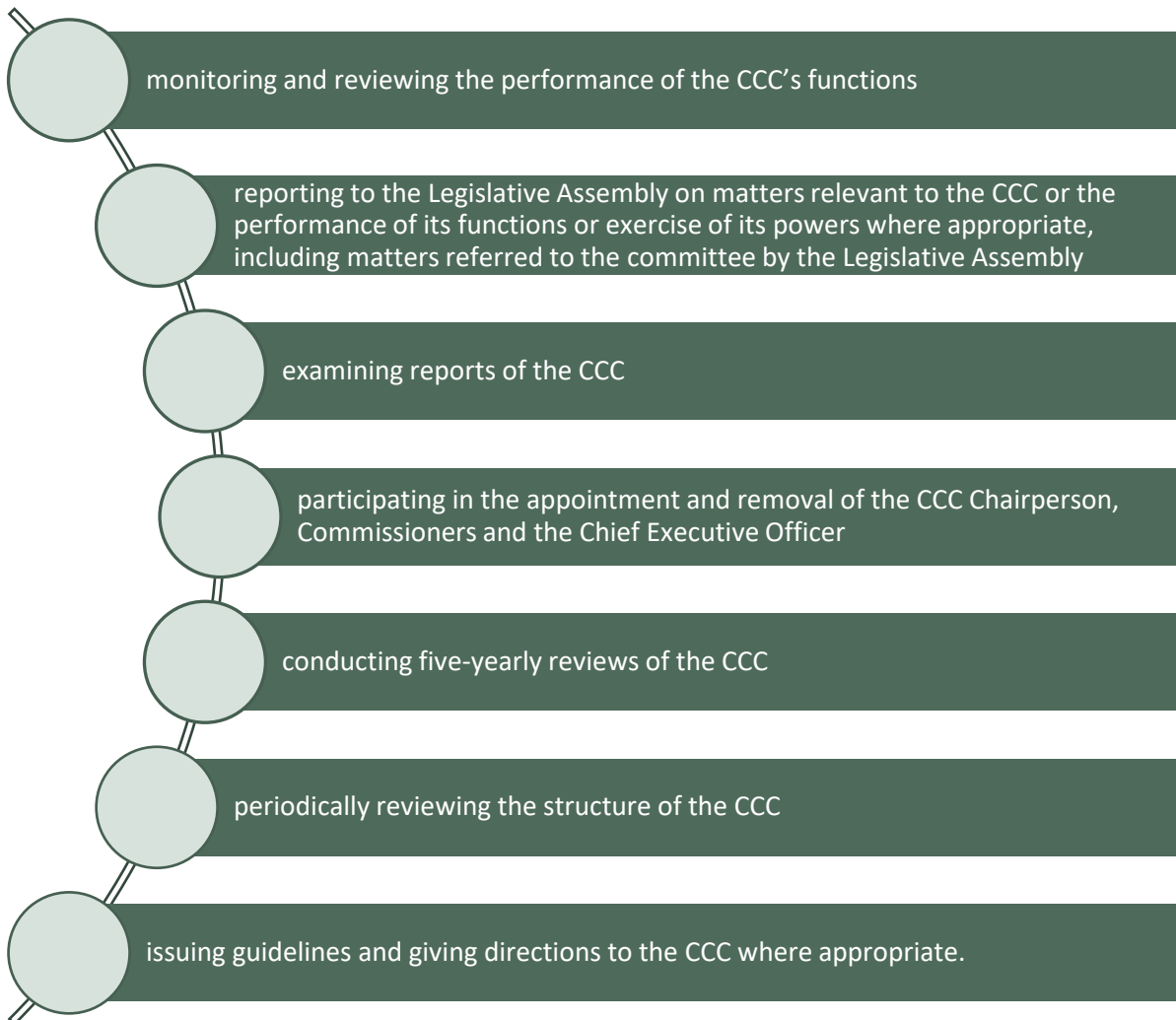
- considered and finalised 21 complaints
- considered and finalised 42 section 329 notifications
- held 16 oversight meetings with the CCC and the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner (Parliamentary Commissioner)
- considered and provided bipartisan support for the reappointment of:
 - Michael Woodford as the Parliamentary Commissioner (appointment for a further period of 2 years to 21 August 2026)
 - Simone Webbe as an Ordinary Commissioner with the CCC (appointment for a period of 5 years to 25 August 2028)
 - Janelle O'Farrell as the Chief Executive Officer of the CCC (appointment for further period of 2 years to 23 August 2025).
- tabled its 2022-23 annual report, and
- continued its oversight of the CCC.

The committee's total expenditure for the year was \$416,159.

1 Functions of the committee

The Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee (committee) is established under the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* (CC Act) as the parliamentary committee responsible for overseeing the operations of the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC).²

The committee's functions under the CC Act include:



The Chairperson of the committee is also required to table a range of reports provided to it by the CCC and the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner (Parliamentary Commissioner) in the House.

It is through the committee that the CCC is accountable to the Parliament and to the people of Queensland.

² CC Act, s 291.

2 Crime and Corruption Commission

The CCC is established under the CC Act.³ The CCC has primary responsibility for the achievement of the CC Act's purposes which are to:

- combat and reduce the incidence of major crime (organised crime, criminal paedophilia and other serious crime)
- continuously improve the integrity of, and to reduce the incidence of corruption in the public sector.⁴

In addition to its crime and corruption functions, the CCC undertakes a number of other functions in the areas of research and prevention, intelligence, witness protection, and the civil confiscation of proceeds of crime.⁵

The CCC has a range of powers under the CC Act, including to:

- conduct hearings at which persons can be compelled to provide evidence,
- compel persons to provide information,
- compel the production of records and things,
- enter and conduct searches of premises (including covert searches),
- seize evidence,
- use surveillance devices, and
- intercept telecommunications.⁶

3 Oversight of the Crime and Corruption Commission

In the 2023-24 financial year, the committee:

	finalised 21 complaints		held 8 oversight meetings with the CCC		finalised 42 section 329 notifications
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3.1 Monitoring and reviewing the CCC

The committee actively monitors and reviews the operations of the CCC by:

- holding regular committee meetings
- conducting inquiries into matters relating to the CCC
- examining the public and private reports provided by the CCC which set out detailed information about the activities of the CCC during the relevant period

³ CC Act, ss 220, 5.

⁴ CC Act, s 4, 7.

⁵ CC Act, ch 2.

⁶ CC Act, ch 3.

- examining the minutes of commission meetings
- holding regular public and private meetings with CCC commissioners and senior officers during which committee members ask questions about the activities of the CCC
- receiving and considering complaints against the CCC and its officers
- examining notifications of suspected improper conduct of CCC officers under section 329 of the CC Act
- reviewing CCC reports including its annual report
- requesting reports from the CCC on matters which arise via complaints, the media or other means
- conducting inquiries into specific or general matters relating to the CCC
- conducting, either itself or through the Parliamentary Commissioner, audits of various registers and files kept by the CCC concerning the use of its powers
- meeting regularly with the Parliamentary Commissioner to discuss the CCC's activities
- examining the appropriateness of the CCC's performance measures
- examining the CCC's performance against its performance measures, and
- reviewing the CCC's implementation of legislative amendments and of changes recommended in statutory reviews of the CCC.

3.2 5 year review of the CCC

Section 292(f) of the CC Act provides that the committee must review the activities of the CCC and report to the Parliament every 5-year period after 30 June 2016 about any action that should be taken in relation to the CC Act or the functions, powers and operations of the CCC.

The last report was tabled in 2021, and the next review report is due by 30 June 2026.

3.3 Complaints about the CCC

Considering complaints about the CCC and its officers assists the committee in its oversight role by providing an insight into the CCC's operations and activities.

The committee does not have jurisdiction over any organisation other than the CCC and cannot consider original allegations of corruption or police misconduct. Further, the committee is not able to substitute its own decision for that of the CCC in a particular matter.

The committee examines complaints to assess whether the CCC, or any of its officers, has acted inappropriately and will, where appropriate, make recommendations to the CCC. The analysis of complaints, even where specific allegations against the CCC are not substantiated, assists the committee to identify procedural or systemic deficiencies that the committee may recommend the CCC address.

Complaints about the CCC, or its officers, received by the committee as part of its monitoring and reviewing role usually come to the committee in 2 ways – directly from members of the public or from the CCC itself as a notification under section 329 of the CC Act.

The committee only accepts complaints about the CCC or its officers from members of the public in writing in order to efficiently identify and consider the concerns raised and to prevent misunderstanding or misinterpretation of the relevant facts or circumstances.

Under section 329 of the CC Act, the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson or Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the CCC must notify the committee of all conduct the relevant notifier suspects involves, or may

involve, improper conduct by officers of the CCC. Knowledge of such conduct might come to the attention of the relevant notifier through an external complaint made to the CCC or through referral from officers within the CCC.

The consideration of complaints and notifications about the CCC and its officers forms a significant part of the committee's work. The consideration of these matters involves a thorough assessment of the relevant information.

3.3.1 Complaints received from the public

During the reporting period, the committee received 15 new complaints from the public about the CCC or its officers that fell within the committee's jurisdiction. The committee finalised 21 complaints during the reporting period.

In considering complaints, the committee takes into account material and submissions provided by the complainant, any reports and other material provided by the CCC and, if the committee referred the matter to the Parliamentary Commissioner, any reports from the Parliamentary Commissioner.

Issues that the committee considers in determining whether or not the CCC has acted inappropriately include (but are not limited to):

- timeliness in the handling of complaints, including responsive and timely communications with complainants
- whether CCC officers have acted professionally in their dealings with complainants
- whether the CCC has provided information about how a dissatisfied complainant may request an internal review of a CCC assessment outcome or decision, and
- whether the CCC acted within its legislative powers.

3.3.2 Notifications from the CCC

During the reporting period, the committee received 34 new notifications of suspected improper conduct by CCC officers under section 329 of the CC Act. The committee finalised 42 notifications during the reporting period.

While the CEO of the CCC is the final decision maker in relation to any disciplinary action taken against commission employees, the committee monitors the processes undertaken by the CCC, including the CEO's proposed actions relating to the relevant commission officers.

In considering these matters, the committee often seeks further information and reports from the CCC and, if the committee refers the matter to the Parliamentary Commissioner, any reports from the Parliamentary Commissioner.

3.4 Examining reports of the CCC

The committee considered reports of the CCC and held 8 public and private meetings with the CCC.

During the 2023-24 financial year, the committee considered and examined several reports of the CCC.

Section 69 directions

Section 69 of the CC Act allows the committee to direct that certain reports of the CCC be given to the Speaker and tabled in the Legislative Assembly. In providing such a direction, the committee does not endorse or adopt the CCC's report in any way.

The committee did not issue any directions under section 69 of the CC Act during the reporting period.

3.5 Reporting to the Legislative Assembly

On 14 November 2023 the committee tabled in the Legislative Assembly, Report No. 110, 57th Parliament – Annual Report 2022-23.

3.6 Participating in the appointment of CCC commissioners

Section 228 of the CC Act requires the committee’s bipartisan support for the nomination of persons as the CCC Chairperson or commissioners and the chief executive officer, and the removal from office of a commissioner or the chief executive officer, as provided under this Act.

During the reporting period, the committee considered, and provided its bipartisan support for the following appointments:

- Ms Simone Webbe – Ordinary Commissioner (appointment for a period of 5 years to 25 August 2028)
- Ms Janelle O’Farrell – Chief Executive Officer (appointment for further period of 2 years to 23 August 2025).

4 Mechanisms available to the committee

Under the CC Act and the POQA, the committee has a range of powers that enable it to carry out its functions, including to:

- direct the commission to investigate a matter falling within the commission’s corruption functions⁷
- take action on a complaint, concern or notification by:
 - asking the commission to give a report on the matter to the committee
 - asking the commission to investigate and give a report on the matter to the committee
 - asking the police service or another law enforcement agency to investigate and give a report on the matter to the committee
 - asking the Parliamentary Commissioner to investigate and give a report on the matter to the committee
 - referring the matter to the Director of Public Prosecutions, or
 - taking other action the committee considers appropriate.⁸

The committee’s powers also include:

- calling for persons, documents or other things⁹
- examining witnesses under oath¹⁰
- appointing persons with special knowledge or skill to help the committee perform its functions.¹¹

⁷ CC Act, s 294

⁸ CC Act, s 295

⁹ CC Act, s 293(1); POQA, s 25(2)

¹⁰ POQA, s 31.

¹¹ CC Act, s 293(2)

4.1 Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner

The committee considered reports and assessments of the Parliamentary Commissioner and held 8 public and private meetings with the Parliamentary Commissioner.

The committee is assisted in its role of monitoring and reviewing the CCC by the Parliamentary Commissioner. The Parliamentary Commissioner undertakes a range of functions on the committee's behalf. During 2023-24 financial year, the committee had 8 public and private meetings with the Parliamentary Commissioner.

The Parliamentary Commissioner is an experienced lawyer, appointed on a part-time basis, for a period between 2 and 5 years, by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly with the bipartisan support of the committee.

The current Parliamentary Commissioner, Mr Michael Woodford, was appointed on 22 August 2021 for a 3-year term. On 16 April 2024, the committee resolved to support the reappointment of Mr Woodford as Parliamentary Commissioner for a further 2 years from the end of his current term.

4.1.1 Functions of the Parliamentary Commissioner

Under the CC Act, the committee may require the Parliamentary Commissioner to:

- audit records and operational files of the CCC
- investigate complaints against the CCC and its officers
- investigate allegations of a possible unauthorised disclosure of confidential information
- verify the CCC's reasons for withholding information from the committee
- verify the accuracy and completeness of CCC reports to the committee
- perform other functions that the committee considers necessary or desirable.¹²

The Parliamentary Commissioner may investigate a matter on their own initiative if certain criteria are met, and conduct hearings in certain circumstances, but must notify the committee of their decision to do so.¹³

The Parliamentary Commissioner also conducts annual reviews of the intelligence data held by the CCC and the QPS.

The Parliamentary Commissioner has a number of other statutory roles under the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2001*. These include:

- inspecting the records of the CCC to decide the extent of the CCC's compliance with the legislative requirements relating to surveillance device warrants, retrieval warrants and emergency authorisations
- reporting in writing to the committee at six monthly intervals on the results of such inspections
- inspecting the records of the CCC at least once every 12 months to determine the extent of the CCC's compliance with the legislative requirements relating to controlled operations
- as soon as practicable after 30 June each year, preparing a report of the activities of the CCC relating to controlled operations for the preceding 12 months and providing a copy of the report to the CCC Chairperson and the Chair of the committee

¹² CC Act, s 314.

¹³ CC Act, s 314A.

- auditing the CCC's records relating to assumed identities at least once every 6 months.

The Parliamentary Commissioner has further statutory roles under the *Telecommunications Interception Act 2009* that include:

- regularly carrying out inspections of the records of the CCC to determine the extent of the CCC's compliance with the legislative requirements relating to telecommunications interception
- providing reports on inspections to the responsible Minister and the committee.

The Chair of the committee tabled reports of the Parliamentary Commissioner as required.

4.1.2 Assistance provided by the Parliamentary Commissioner

During the reporting period, the Parliamentary Commissioner provided the committee with advice relating to the performance by the CCC of its functions under the CC Act and other matters.

These activities are in addition to the separate statutory responsibilities of the Parliamentary Commissioner outlined above.

5 Committee expenditure

Committees are funded from the appropriation made to the Legislative Assembly and rarely generate revenue. After funding is allocated for the committee office as a whole, expenditure by individual committees is determined by their specific requirements and volume of work. Travel expenditure is subject to an additional approval process.

In 2023-24, the committee's total expenditure was \$416,159. The committee did not receive any revenue.

The table below provides a detailed breakdown of the committee's expenditure for the year.

Employee expenses for the secretariat staff that support the committee comprised the vast majority (97 per cent) of the committee's expenditure. The committee's secretariat is a three-person team, supplemented with additional resources from across the Committee Office as needed throughout the year.

After employee expenses, technology and meeting expenses (software licences, videoconferencing, broadcast support and catering) were the most notable areas of expenditure for the committee.

Expenditure of the committee, 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024

Item	\$
Employee expenses	404,845
Technology (software licences, telephones, teleconferencing & videoconferencing)	4,489
Meeting expenses (broadcast support & catering)	4,078
Printing, stationery and maintenance	1,934
Freight	814
Total expenditure	416,160

Appendix A: Meeting attendance record

During the reporting period, the committee held **21** private meetings, **8** private hearings and **8** public hearings.

In addition to committee meetings, the committee holds public and private hearings with the CCC and Parliamentary Commissioner on a regular basis. The committee holds public hearings to the greatest extent possible to provide open and transparent oversight of the CCC as required by the CC Act. Private hearings are conducted in order to avoid the disclosure of confidential information contrary to the public interest, information about a complaint about corrupt conduct or investigation or operation being conducted by the CCC.¹⁴

To assist with the meeting process, the CCC provides confidential briefing papers, public reports, and minutes of commission meetings. The committee asks questions in relation to matters contained in these documents or any other matter that has come to its attention.

The committee also meets regularly with the Parliamentary Commissioner who provides public and private reports to the committee on the status of matters referred to the Parliamentary Commissioner and administrative issues concerning the day-to-day running of the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner.

On 13 February 2024, the Legislative Assembly discharged Mr Jimmy Sullivan MP, Member for Stafford, Ms Jonty Bush MP, Member for Cooper and Dr Mark Robinson MP, Member for Oodgeroo, as members of the committee. Conversely, on 13 February 2024 the Legislative Assembly appointed Hon Stirling Hinchliffe MP, Member for Sandgate, Mr James Martin MP, Member for Stretton, and Mr Lachlan Miller MP, Member for Gregory, to the committee.

The attendance of committee members at private committee meetings (PrM), private hearings (PrH) and public hearings (PH) during the reporting period is shown in the tables below, reflective of the change of committee membership on 13 February 2024.

Standing Order 202(1) provides that in the case of a committee members' illness or inability to attend, another member may be appointed to attend that meeting or stand in for a particular inquiry. The details of these appointments are included in the footnotes.

Meeting attendance record, 2023-24 financial year

1 July 2023 to 13 February 2024

Legend: PrM private meeting

PrH private hearing

PH public hearing

Meeting Date	Activity	Jon Krause MP	Jimmy Sullivan MP	Michael Crandon MP	Jonty Bush MP	Jess Pugh MP	Mark Robinson MP	Don Brown MP
10 July 2023	PrM	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
27 July 2023	PrM	✓	✓	✗ ¹⁵	✓	✓	✓	✓
10 August 2023	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

¹⁴ See POQA, s 302A.

¹⁵ Jarrod Bleijie MP substituted for Michael Crandon MP as committee member on 27 July 2023.

Meeting Date	Activity	Jon Krause MP	Jimmy Sullivan MP	Michael Crandon MP	Jonty Bush MP	Jess Pugh MP	Mark Robinson MP	Don Brown MP
15 August 2023	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22 August 2023	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12 September 2023	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14 September 2023	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗ ¹⁶	✓
15 September 2023	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗ ¹⁷	✓
	PrH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
	PrH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
10 October 2023	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24 October 2023	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14 November 2023	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✗ ¹⁸	✓	✓	✓
24 November 2023	PH	✓	✓	✓	✗ ¹⁹	✓	✓	✓
	PrH	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
	PH	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
	PrH	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
28 November 2023	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11 January 2024	PrM	✓	✗ ²⁰	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
31 January 2024	PrM	✓	✗ ²¹	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

¹⁶ Jarrod Bleijie MP substituted for Mark Robinson MP as committee member on 14 September 2023.

¹⁷ Jarrod Bleijie MP substituted for Mark Robinson MP as committee member for all committee business on 15 September 2023.

¹⁸ Barry O'Rourke MP substituted for Jonty Bush MP as committee member on 14 November 2023.

¹⁹ James Martin MP substituted for Jonty Bush MP as committee member for all committee business on 24 November 2023.

²⁰ Linus Power MP substituted for Jimmy Sullivan MP as committee member on 11 January 2024.

²¹ Linus Power MP substituted for Jimmy Sullivan MP as committee member on 31 January 2024.

Meeting Date	Activity	Jon Krause MP	Jimmy Sullivan MP	Michael Crandon MP	Jonty Bush MP	Jess Pugh MP	Mark Robinson MP	Don Brown MP
2 February 2024	PH	✓	x ²²	✓	✓	✓	✓	x ²³
	PrH	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x
	PH	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x
	PrH	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x
13 February 2024	PrM	✓	x ²⁴	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

13 February 2024 to 30 June 2024

Legend: PrM private meeting

PrH private hearing

PH public hearing

Meeting Date	Activity	Jon Krause MP	Hon Stirling Hinchliffe MP	Don Brown MP	Michael Crandon MP	James Martin MP	Lachlan Millar MP	Jess Pugh MP
5 March 2024	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19 March 2024	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
27 March 2024	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x
16 April 2024	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
30 April 2024	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17 May 2024	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	PrH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	PrH	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓

²² Linus Power MP substituted for Jimmy Sullivan MP as committee member for all committee business on 2 February 2024.

²³ Tom Smith MP substituted for Don Brown MP as committee member for all committee business on 2 February 2024.

²⁴ Linus Power MP substituted for Jimmy Sullivan MP as committee member on 13 February 2024.

Meeting Date	Activity	Jon Krause MP	Hon Stirling Hinchliffe MP	Don Brown MP	Michael Crandon MP	James Martin MP	Lachlan Millar MP	Jess Pugh MP
21 May 2024	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12 June 2024	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓