

# Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988 No 35

[1988-35]



New South Wales

## Status Information

### Currency of version

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### Provisions in force

The provisions displayed in this version of the legislation have all commenced.

### Notes—

- **See also**  
[Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment \(Validation\) Bill 2023](#) [Non-government Bill—  
the Hon Rod Roberts, MLC]

### Authorisation

This version of the legislation is compiled and maintained in a database of legislation by the Parliamentary Counsel's Office and published on the NSW legislation website, and is certified as the form of that legislation that is correct under section 45C of the [Interpretation Act 1987](#).

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# Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988 No 35



New South Wales

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# Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988 No 35



New South Wales

An Act to constitute the Independent Commission Against Corruption and to define its functions.

## Part 1 Preliminary

### 1 Name of Act

This Act may be cited as the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988*.

### 2 Commencement

This Act commences on a day or days to be appointed by proclamation.

### 2A Principal objects of Act

The principal objects of this Act are—

- (a) to promote the integrity and accountability of public administration by constituting an Independent Commission Against Corruption as an independent and accountable body—
  - (i) to investigate, expose and prevent corruption involving or affecting public authorities and public officials, and
  - (ii) to educate public authorities, public officials and members of the public about corruption and its detrimental effects on public administration and on the community, and
- (b) to confer on the Commission special powers to inquire into allegations of corruption.

### 3 Definitions

(1) In this Act—

**Assistant Commissioner** means an Assistant Commissioner of the Commission appointed under section 6A.

**Assistant Inspector** means an Assistant Inspector of the Independent Commission Against Corruption, appointed under this Act.

**authorised officer** has the same meaning as it has in the [Law Enforcement \(Powers and Responsibilities\) Act 2002](#).

**Chief Commissioner** means the Chief Commissioner of the Commission appointed under section 5.

**Chief Executive Officer** means the Chief Executive Officer of the Commission appointed under section 104.

**Commission** means the Independent Commission Against Corruption constituted by this Act.

**Commissioner** means the Chief Commissioner or other Commissioner of the Commission appointed under section 5.

**compulsory examination** means a compulsory examination under this Act.

**conduct** includes neglect, failure and inaction.

**corrupt conduct** has the meaning given by Part 3.

**Inspector** means the Inspector of the Independent Commission Against Corruption, appointed under this Act.

**investigate** includes examine.

**investigation** means an investigation under this Act, and (without limitation) includes a preliminary investigation referred to in section 20A.

**Joint Committee** means the joint committee called the Committee on the Independent Commission Against Corruption, constituted under this Act.

**local government authority** means a council, a county council or a joint organisation within the meaning of the [Local Government Act 1993](#) or any person or body exercising all or any of the functions of such a council, county council or joint organisation.

**medical practitioner** has the same meaning as in the [Health Practitioner Regulation National Law \(NSW\)](#).

**member of staff of the Commission** means—

- (a) a member of staff appointed by the Chief Commissioner under section 104, or
- (b) a person whose services are made use of under section 104A or who performs services for the Commission under that section.

**officer of the Commission** means—

- (a) a Commissioner, or
- (b) an Assistant Commissioner, or
- (c) a member of staff of the Commission, or
- (d) a person engaged by the Commission under section 104B to provide the Commission with services, information or advice.

**officer of the Inspector** means the Inspector or a member of staff of the Inspector.

**premises** includes any structure, building, aircraft, vehicle, vessel and place (whether built on or not), and any part thereof.

**psychologist** has the same meaning as in the [Health Practitioner Regulation National Law \(NSW\)](#).

**public authority** includes the following—

- (a) a Public Service agency or any other government sector agency within the meaning of the [Government Sector Employment Act 2013](#),
- (b) a statutory body representing the Crown,
- (c) (Repealed)
- (d) an auditable entity within the meaning of the [Government Sector Audit Act 1983](#),
- (e) a local government authority,
- (f) the NSW Police Force,
- (g) a body, or the holder of an office, declared by the regulations to be a body or office within this definition.

**public inquiry** means a public inquiry under this Act.

**public official** means an individual having public official functions or acting in a public official capacity, and includes any of the following—

- (a) the Governor (whether or not acting with the advice of the Executive Council),
- (b) a person appointed to an office by the Governor,
- (c) a Minister of the Crown, a member of the Executive Council or a Parliamentary Secretary,
- (d) a member of the Legislative Council or of the Legislative Assembly,

- (e) a person employed by the President of the Legislative Council or the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly or both,
- (e1) a person employed under the *Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013*,
- (f) a judge, a magistrate or the holder of any other judicial office (whether exercising judicial, ministerial or other functions),
- (g) a person employed in a Public Service agency or any other government sector agency within the meaning of the *Government Sector Employment Act 2013*,
- (h) an individual who constitutes or is a member of a public authority,
- (i) a person in the service of the Crown or of a public authority,
- (j) an individual entitled to be reimbursed expenses, from a fund of which an account mentioned in paragraph (d) of the definition of **public authority** is kept, of attending meetings or carrying out the business of any body constituted by an Act,
- (k) a member of the NSW Police Force,
- (k1) an accreditation authority or a registered certifier within the meaning of the *Building and Development Certifiers Act 2018*,
- (k2) an auditor within the meaning of the *Water Industry Competition Act 2006*,
- (l) the holder of an office declared by the regulations to be an office within this definition,
- (m) an employee of or any person otherwise engaged by or acting for or on behalf of, or in the place of, or as deputy or delegate of, a public authority or any person or body described in any of the foregoing paragraphs.

**search warrant** means a search warrant issued under this Act.

**task force** includes a body of persons that is similar to a task force, however the body is described.

**Note—**

The *Interpretation Act 1987* contains definitions and other provisions that affect the interpretation and application of this Act.

(2) In this Act—

- (a) a reference to a function includes a reference to a power, authority and duty, and
- (b) a reference to the exercise of a function includes, where the function is a duty, a reference to the performance of the duty.

- (3) Notes included in this Act do not form part of this Act.

## **Part 2 Constitution and management of Commission**

### **4 Constitution of Commission**

- (1) There is constituted by this Act a corporation with the corporate name of the Independent Commission Against Corruption.
- (2) The Commission has the functions conferred or imposed on it by or under this or any other Act.

### **5 The Commissioners**

- (1) The Commission consists of a Chief Commissioner and 2 other Commissioners appointed by the Governor.
- (2) The Chief Commissioner is required to be consulted on the persons to be appointed as the 2 other Commissioners.
- (3) A Commissioner has and may exercise the functions conferred or imposed on a Commissioner by or under this or any other Act.
- (4) Schedule 1 contains provisions relating to the Commissioners.

### **5A (Repealed)**

### **6 Exercise of Commission's functions**

- (1) Except as otherwise provided by this section, the functions of the Commission are exercisable by a Commissioner, and any act, matter or thing done in the name of, or on behalf of, the Commission by a Commissioner is taken to have been done by the Commission.
- (2) A decision of the Commission to conduct a public inquiry under section 31 must be authorised by the Chief Commissioner and at least one other Commissioner.
- (3) Any such authorisation may be given in respect of a particular public inquiry or in respect of any public inquiry for a particular investigation or matter.
- (4) An Assistant Commissioner may, at the request of a Commissioner, act for the Commissioner for the purpose of giving any such authorisation if the Commissioner considers that there may be a conflict of interest in the matter.
- (5) A decision of the Commission referred to in subsection (2) is presumed to have been duly authorised under that subsection unless the contrary is established.
- (6) Except as provided by subsection (2), the decision of the Chief Commissioner prevails in the event of any inconsistency in the decisions of the Commissioners.

- (7) A reference in this Act to a compulsory examination or public inquiry before the Commission or anything done or omitted by, to or in relation to the Commission includes a reference to a compulsory examination or public inquiry before, or a thing done or omitted by, to or in relation to, a Commissioner or another officer of the Commission having authority in the circumstances.

#### **6A Assistant Commissioners**

- (1) The Governor may, with the concurrence of the Chief Commissioner, appoint one or more Assistant Commissioners of the Commission.
- (2) An Assistant Commissioner has and may exercise the functions conferred or imposed on an Assistant Commissioner by or under this or any other Act.
- (3) An Assistant Commissioner is to assist the Commission, as the Chief Commissioner requires.
- (4) Schedule 1 contains provisions relating to the Assistant Commissioners.

#### **6B Management of affairs of Commission**

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the day to day management of the affairs of the Commission and for the implementation of the decisions of the Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners.

### **Part 3 Corrupt conduct**

#### **7 Corrupt conduct**

- (1) For the purposes of this Act, corrupt conduct is any conduct which falls within the description of corrupt conduct in section 8, but which is not excluded by section 9.
- (2) Conduct comprising a conspiracy or attempt to commit or engage in conduct that would be corrupt conduct under section 8 shall itself be regarded as corrupt conduct under section 8.
- (3) Conduct comprising such a conspiracy or attempt is not excluded by section 9 if, had the conspiracy or attempt been brought to fruition in further conduct, the further conduct could constitute or involve an offence or grounds referred to in that section.

#### **8 General nature of corrupt conduct**

- (1) Corrupt conduct is—
  - (a) any conduct of any person (whether or not a public official) that adversely affects, or that could adversely affect, either directly or indirectly, the honest or impartial exercise of official functions by any public official, any group or body of public officials or any public authority, or

- (b) any conduct of a public official that constitutes or involves the dishonest or partial exercise of any of his or her official functions, or
  - (c) any conduct of a public official or former public official that constitutes or involves a breach of public trust, or
  - (d) any conduct of a public official or former public official that involves the misuse of information or material that he or she has acquired in the course of his or her official functions, whether or not for his or her benefit or for the benefit of any other person.
- (2) Corrupt conduct is also any conduct of any person (whether or not a public official) that adversely affects, or that could adversely affect, either directly or indirectly, the exercise of official functions by any public official, any group or body of public officials or any public authority and which could involve any of the following matters—
- (a) official misconduct (including breach of trust, fraud in office, nonfeasance, misfeasance, malfeasance, oppression, extortion or imposition),
  - (b) bribery,
  - (c) blackmail,
  - (d) obtaining or offering secret commissions,
  - (e) fraud,
  - (f) theft,
  - (g) perverting the course of justice,
  - (h) embezzlement,
  - (i) election bribery,
  - (j) election funding offences,
  - (k) election fraud,
  - (l) treating,
  - (m) tax evasion,
  - (n) revenue evasion,
  - (o) currency violations,
  - (p) illegal drug dealings,
  - (q) illegal gambling,



- (r) obtaining financial benefit by vice engaged in by others,
- (s) bankruptcy and company violations,
- (t) harbouring criminals,
- (u) forgery,
- (v) treason or other offences against the Sovereign,
- (w) homicide or violence,
- (x) matters of the same or a similar nature to any listed above,
- (y) any conspiracy or attempt in relation to any of the above.

(2A) Corrupt conduct is also any conduct of any person (whether or not a public official) that impairs, or that could impair, public confidence in public administration and which could involve any of the following matters—

- (a) collusive tendering,
- (b) fraud in relation to applications for licences, permits or other authorities under legislation designed to protect health and safety or the environment or designed to facilitate the management and commercial exploitation of resources,
- (c) dishonestly obtaining or assisting in obtaining, or dishonestly benefiting from, the payment or application of public funds for private advantage or the disposition of public assets for private advantage,
- (d) defrauding the public revenue,
- (e) fraudulently obtaining or retaining employment or appointment as a public official.

- (3) Conduct may amount to corrupt conduct under subsection (1), (2) or (2A) even though it occurred before the commencement of that subsection, and it does not matter that some or all of the effects or other ingredients necessary to establish such corrupt conduct occurred before that commencement and that any person or persons involved are no longer public officials.
- (4) Conduct committed by or in relation to a person who was not or is not a public official may amount to corrupt conduct under this section with respect to the exercise of his or her official functions after becoming a public official. This subsection extends to a person seeking to become a public official even if the person fails to become a public official.
- (5) Conduct may amount to corrupt conduct under this section even though it occurred outside the State or outside Australia, and matters listed in subsection (2) or (2A) refer to—

- (a) matters arising in the State or matters arising under the law of the State, or
  - (b) matters arising outside the State or outside Australia or matters arising under the law of the Commonwealth or under any other law.
- (6) The specific mention of a kind of conduct in a provision of this section shall not be regarded as limiting or expanding the scope of any other provision of this section.

## 9 Limitation on nature of corrupt conduct

- (1) Despite section 8, conduct does not amount to corrupt conduct unless it could constitute or involve—
- (a) a criminal offence, or
  - (b) a disciplinary offence, or
  - (c) reasonable grounds for dismissing, dispensing with the services of or otherwise terminating the services of a public official, or
  - (d) in the case of conduct of a Minister of the Crown or Parliamentary Secretary or a member of a House of Parliament—a substantial breach of an applicable code of conduct.
- (2) It does not matter that proceedings or action for such an offence can no longer be brought or continued, or that action for such dismissal, dispensing or other termination can no longer be taken.

- (3) For the purposes of this section—

***applicable code of conduct*** means, in relation to—

- (a) a Minister of the Crown or Parliamentary Secretary—a ministerial code of conduct prescribed or adopted for the purposes of this section by the regulations, or
- (b) a member of the Legislative Council or of the Legislative Assembly (including a Minister of the Crown or Parliamentary Secretary)—a code of conduct adopted for the purposes of this section by resolution of the House concerned.

***criminal offence*** means a criminal offence under the law of the State or under any other law relevant to the conduct in question.

***disciplinary offence*** includes any misconduct, irregularity, neglect of duty, breach of discipline or other matter that constitutes or may constitute grounds for disciplinary action under any law.

- (4) Subject to subsection (5), conduct of a Minister of the Crown or Parliamentary Secretary or a member of a House of Parliament which falls within the description of corrupt conduct in section 8 is not excluded by this section if it is conduct that would

cause a reasonable person to believe that it would bring the integrity of the office concerned or of Parliament into serious disrepute.

- (5) Without otherwise limiting the matters that it can under section 74A (1) include in a report under section 74, the Commission is not authorised to include a finding or opinion that a specified person has, by engaging in conduct of a kind referred to in subsection (4), engaged in corrupt conduct, unless the Commission is satisfied that the conduct constitutes a breach of a law (apart from this Act) and the Commission identifies that law in the report.
- (6) A reference to a disciplinary offence in this section and sections 74A and 74B includes a reference to a substantial breach of an applicable requirement of a code of conduct required to be complied with under section 440 (5) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, but does not include a reference to any other breach of such a requirement.

## 10 Complaints about possible corrupt conduct

- (1) Any person may make a complaint to the Commission about a matter that concerns or may concern corrupt conduct.

### Note 1—

Protections may be available under the following provisions to persons who make a complaint under this section—

- (a) the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022*, Part 3—if the complaint is a public interest disclosure,
- (b) Part 8A—if the making of the complaint is protected action within the meaning of the Part.

### Note 2—

The *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022*, section 58 confers additional investigative powers on the Commission in relation to certain public interest disclosures.

- (2) The Commission may investigate a complaint or decide that a complaint need not be investigated.
- (3) The Commission may discontinue an investigation of a complaint.
- (4) If a prisoner informs the governor of the prison that the prisoner wishes to make a complaint under this section, the governor of the prison must—
  - (a) take all steps necessary to facilitate the making of the complaint, and
  - (b) send immediately to the Commission, unopened, any written matter addressed to the Commission.
- (5) For the purposes of subsection (4), **prisoner** and **governor of a prison** have the same meanings as **inmate** and **governor** have in the *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999*.

## 11 Duty to notify Commission of possible corrupt conduct

- (1) This section applies to the following persons—
  - (a) the Ombudsman,
  - (b) the Commissioner of Police,
  - (c) the principal officer of a public authority,
  - (d) an officer who constitutes a public authority,
  - (e) a Minister of the Crown.
- (2) A person to whom this section applies is under a duty to report to the Commission any matter that the person suspects on reasonable grounds concerns or may concern corrupt conduct.
- (2A) Despite subsection (2), the Commissioner of Police is not under a duty to report to the Commission any matter that concerns or may concern corrupt conduct of a police officer or administrative employee (within the meaning of the [Law Enforcement Conduct Commission Act 2016](#)) unless the Commissioner of Police suspects on reasonable grounds that the matter also concerns or may concern corrupt conduct of another public official.
- (2B) Despite subsection (2), the Commissioner for the New South Wales Crime Commission (**the Crime Commissioner**) is not under a duty to report to the Commission any matter that concerns or may concern corrupt conduct of a Crime Commission officer (within the meaning of the [Law Enforcement Conduct Commission Act 2016](#)) unless the Crime Commissioner suspects on reasonable grounds that the matter also concerns or may concern corrupt conduct of another public official.
- (3) The Commission may issue guidelines as to what matters need or need not be reported.
- (3A) A Minister of the Crown who is under a duty under this section to report a matter may (despite subsection (2)) report the matter either to the Commission or to the head of any agency responsible to the Minister.
- (4) This section has effect despite any duty of secrecy or other restriction on disclosure.
- (5) The regulations may prescribe who is the principal officer of a public authority, but in the absence of regulations applying in relation to a particular public authority, the principal officer is the person who is the head of the authority, its most senior officer or the person normally entitled to preside at its meetings.
- (6) The regulations may prescribe the principal officer of a separate office within a public authority as the principal officer of the public authority in relation to matters

concerning the separate office.

## **Part 4 Functions of Commission**

### **Division 1 Functions generally**

#### **12 Public interest to be paramount**

In exercising its functions, the Commission shall regard the protection of the public interest and the prevention of breaches of public trust as its paramount concerns.

#### **12A Serious corrupt conduct and systemic corrupt conduct**

In exercising its functions, the Commission is, as far as practicable, to direct its attention to serious corrupt conduct and systemic corrupt conduct and is to take into account the responsibility and role other public authorities and public officials have in the prevention of corrupt conduct.

#### **13 Principal functions**

(1) The principal functions of the Commission are as follows—

- (a) to investigate any allegation or complaint that, or any circumstances which in the Commission's opinion imply that—
  - (i) corrupt conduct, or
  - (ii) conduct liable to allow, encourage or cause the occurrence of corrupt conduct, or
  - (iii) conduct connected with corrupt conduct,may have occurred, may be occurring or may be about to occur,
- (b) to investigate any matter referred to the Commission by both Houses of Parliament,
- (c) to communicate to appropriate authorities the results of its investigations,
- (d) to examine the laws governing, and the practices and procedures of, public authorities and public officials, in order to facilitate the discovery of corrupt conduct and to secure the revision of methods of work or procedures which, in the opinion of the Commission, may be conducive to corrupt conduct,
- (e) to instruct, advise and assist any public authority, public official or other person (on the request of the authority, official or person) on ways in which corrupt conduct may be eliminated and the integrity and good repute of public administration promoted,

- (f) to advise public authorities or public officials of changes in practices or procedures compatible with the effective exercise of their functions that the Commission thinks necessary to reduce the likelihood of the occurrence of corrupt conduct and to promote the integrity and good repute of public administration,
  - (g) to co-operate with public authorities and public officials in reviewing laws, practices and procedures with a view to reducing the likelihood of the occurrence of corrupt conduct and to promoting the integrity and good repute of public administration,
  - (h) to educate and advise public authorities, public officials and the community on strategies to combat corrupt conduct and to promote the integrity and good repute of public administration,
  - (i) to educate and disseminate information to the public on the detrimental effects of corrupt conduct and on the importance of maintaining the integrity and good repute of public administration,
  - (j) to enlist and foster public support in combating corrupt conduct and in promoting the integrity and good repute of public administration,
  - (k) to develop, arrange, supervise, participate in or conduct such educational or advisory programs as may be described in a reference made to the Commission by both Houses of Parliament.
- (1A) Subsection (1) (d) and (f)–(h) do not extend to the conduct of police officers, Crime Commission officers or administrative employees within the meaning of the [Law Enforcement Conduct Commission Act 2016](#).
- (2) The Commission is to conduct its investigations with a view to determining—
- (a) whether any corrupt conduct, or any other conduct referred to in subsection (1) (a), has occurred, is occurring or is about to occur, and
  - (b) whether any laws governing any public authority or public official need to be changed for the purpose of reducing the likelihood of the occurrence of corrupt conduct, and
  - (c) whether any methods of work, practices or procedures of any public authority or public official did or could allow, encourage or cause the occurrence of corrupt conduct.
- (2A) Subsection (2) (a) does not require the Commission to make a finding, on the basis of any investigation, that corrupt conduct, or other conduct, has occurred, is occurring or is about to occur.
- (3) The principal functions of the Commission also include—

- (a) the power to make findings and form opinions, on the basis of the results of its investigations, in respect of any conduct, circumstances or events with which its investigations are concerned, whether or not the findings or opinions relate to corrupt conduct, and
  - (b) the power to formulate recommendations for the taking of action that the Commission considers should be taken in relation to its findings or opinions or the results of its investigations.
- (3A) The Commission may make a finding that a person has engaged or is engaging in corrupt conduct of a kind described in paragraph (a), (b), (c) or (d) of section 9 (1) only if satisfied that a person has engaged in or is engaging in conduct that constitutes or involves an offence or thing of the kind described in that paragraph.
- (4) The Commission is not to make a finding, form an opinion or formulate a recommendation which section 74B or 74BA prevents the Commission from including in a report, but section 9 (5) and this section are the only restrictions imposed by this Act on the Commission's powers under subsection (3).
- (5) The following are examples of the findings and opinions permissible under subsection (3) but do not limit the Commission's power to make findings and form opinions—
- (a) findings that particular persons have engaged, are engaged or are about to engage in corrupt conduct,
  - (b) opinions as to—
    - (i) whether the advice of the Director of Public Prosecutions should be sought in relation to the commencement of proceedings against particular persons for criminal offences against laws of the State, or
    - (ii) whether consideration should or should not be given to the taking of other action against particular persons,
  - (c) findings of fact.

### **13A Function of investigating matters referred by Electoral Commission**

- (1) The Commission has the function of investigating conduct that may involve possible criminal offences under the *Electoral Act 2017*, the *Electoral Funding Act 2018* or the *Lobbying of Government Officials Act 2011* that the Electoral Commission refers to the Commission for investigation under this section.
- (2) The Electoral Commission may refer any such conduct to the Commission for investigation—
  - (a) if there are reasonable grounds to suspect that the conduct may involve a possible criminal offence to which this section applies (as set out in subsection (9)), or

- (b) if the conduct is related to possible corrupt conduct that the Commission is already investigating,
- whether or not the time within which proceedings for the possible criminal offence may be instituted has expired.
- (3) After a preliminary investigation, the Commission is to discontinue the investigation if—
- (a) the conduct does not involve any possible criminal offence to which this section applies and is not related to possible corrupt conduct that the Commission is already investigating, and the Commission is not otherwise authorised to investigate the conduct, or
- (b) the Commission determines it should not carry out any further investigation.
- (4) Conduct may be referred under this section to the Commission for investigation whether or not it involves corrupt conduct. The fact that the conduct could be so referred does not prevent the Commission from investigating the conduct without a referral if it is otherwise authorised by this Act to do so.
- (5) The following matters are to be taken into account in determining whether conduct should be referred under this section for investigation and, if referred, whether the Commission should investigate—
- (a) the primary responsibility of the Electoral Commission to investigate and prosecute the possible criminal offences concerned,
- (b) the seriousness or systemic nature of the matter being investigated,
- (c) the complexity of the matter being investigated,
- (d) the relationship between the matter being investigated and any other ongoing investigation of the Electoral Commission,
- (e) the relationship between the matter being investigated and any other ongoing investigation of the Commission,
- (f) the availability of any other public authority or official with the responsibility or jurisdiction to investigate or prosecute the possible criminal offences concerned,
- (g) any other relevant matter.
- (6) The Electoral Commission, when it refers conduct for investigation under this section, must provide the Commission with a statement of the reasons it referred the matter for investigation.
- (7) The Commission, when it determines to investigate conduct referred under this



section after a preliminary investigation, must provide the Electoral Commission with a statement of the reasons it determined to investigate the conduct.

(8) A report of the Commission under section 74 that relates to an investigation under this section is to include the statements of reasons under subsections (6) and (7) in relation to the investigation.

(9) This section applies to the following criminal offences—

(a) *Electoral Funding Act 2018*—

section 138 (7) (Provision of false or misleading documents and information),

section 141 (Offences relating to disclosures of political donations and electoral expenditure),

section 142 (Offences relating to assisting others lodging claims or disclosures),

section 143 (Offences relating to caps on donations and expenditure),

section 144 (1) (Offence relating to scheme to circumvent the donation or expenditure prohibitions or restrictions),

section 145 (1) (Unlawful acts relating to donations etc),

section 146 (False or misleading information),

(b) *Electoral Act 2017*—

section 72 (False statements),

section 95 (4) (False child protection declarations),

section 128 (4) (Questions to be put if voter challenged),

section 160 (Protection of computer hardware and software),

section 183 (Printing, publishing and distributing non-complying electoral material),

section 189 (Encouraging ticks or crosses on ballot papers),

section 209 (Electoral bribery, treating and selling of votes),

section 210 (Interference with right to vote),

section 212 (Impersonation and multiple voting),

section 215 (Display, publish or distribute material falsely appearing to be made by Electoral Commission),

section 216 (False or misleading declaration and statements),

section 218 (Forging or uttering electoral papers),

section 219 (Offence of stuffing ballot box),

(c) *Lobbying of Government Officials Act 2011*—

section 15 (Ban on success fees),

section 18 (Cooling-off period for ex-Ministers and ex-Parliamentary Secretaries),

(d) an offence against any of the above Acts, or the regulations under any of the above Acts, that is prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this section.

Section 117 (4) does not apply to a regulation made under paragraph (d).

#### **14 Other functions of Commission**

(1) Other functions of the Commission are as follows—

(a) to gather and assemble, during or after the discontinuance or completion of its investigations, evidence that may be admissible in the prosecution of a person for a criminal offence against a law of the State in connection with corrupt conduct and to furnish such evidence to the Director of Public Prosecutions,

(a1) to gather and assemble, during or after the discontinuance or completion of an investigation into conduct under section 13A, evidence that may be admissible in the prosecution of a person for a criminal offence in connection with the conduct and to furnish such evidence to the Electoral Commission and (if considered appropriate) to the Director of Public Prosecutions,

(b) to furnish, during or after the discontinuance or completion of its investigations, other evidence obtained in the course of its investigations (being evidence that may be admissible in the prosecution of a person for a criminal offence against a law of another State, the Commonwealth or a Territory) to the Attorney General or to the appropriate authority of the jurisdiction concerned.

(1A) Evidence of the kind referred to in subsection (1) (a1) or (b) may be accompanied by any observations that the Commission considers appropriate and (in the case of evidence furnished to the Attorney General or the Electoral Commission) recommendations as to what action the Commission considers should be taken in relation to the evidence.

(1B) A copy or detailed description of any evidence furnished to the appropriate authority of another jurisdiction, together with a copy of any accompanying observations, is to be furnished to the Attorney General.

- (2) If the Commission obtains any information in the course of its investigations relating to the exercise of the functions of a public authority, the Commission may, if it considers it desirable to do so—
- (a) furnish the information or a report on the information to the authority or to the Minister for the authority, and
  - (b) make to the authority or the Minister for the authority such recommendations (if any) relating to the exercise of the functions of the authority as the Commission considers appropriate.
- (2A) A copy of any information or report furnished to a public authority under subsection (2), together with a copy of any such recommendation, is to be furnished to the Minister for the authority.
- (3) If the Commission furnishes any evidence or information to a person under this section on the understanding that the information is confidential, the person is subject to the secrecy provisions of section 111 in relation to the information.

## **15 Task forces**

The Commission may, in connection with its principal functions—

- (a) arrange for the establishment of task forces within the State, and
- (b) seek the establishment of joint task forces with authorities of the Commonwealth or other States or Territories, and
- (c) co-operate with State task forces, Commonwealth task forces, joint task forces or other task forces, and
- (d) co-ordinate or co-operate in co-ordinating any such task forces.

## **16 Co-operation with other agencies**

- (1) In exercising its principal functions relating to the investigation of conduct, the Commission—
- (a) shall, as far as practicable, work in co-operation with law enforcement agencies, and
    - (a1) shall, as far as practicable, work in co-operation with the Electoral Commission in connection with a referral by the Electoral Commission under section 13A, and
  - (b) may work in co-operation with the Auditor-General, the Ombudsman, the Australian Crime Commission, the Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence and such other persons and bodies as the Commission thinks appropriate.
- (2) In exercising its other principal functions, the Commission shall, as far as practicable,

work in co-operation with the Auditor-General, the Ombudsman, educational institutions, management consultants and such other persons and bodies as the Commission thinks appropriate.

- (3) The Commission may consult with and disseminate intelligence and information to law enforcement agencies, the Australian Crime Commission, the Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence and such other persons and bodies (including any task force and any member of a task force) as the Commission thinks appropriate.
- (4) If the Commission disseminates information to a person or body under this section on the understanding that the information is confidential, the person or body is subject to the secrecy provisions of section 111 in relation to the information.

- (5) In this section—

**law enforcement agency** means—

- (a) the NSW Police Force, or
- (b) a police force of another State or Territory, or
- (c) the Australian Federal Police, or
- (d) any other authority or person responsible for the enforcement of the laws of the Commonwealth or of the State, another State or a Territory.

## **17 Evidence and procedure**

- (1) The Commission is not bound by the rules or practice of evidence and can inform itself on any matter in such manner as it considers appropriate.
- (2) The Commission shall exercise its functions with as little formality and technicality as is possible, and, in particular, the Commission shall accept written submissions as far as is possible and compulsory examinations and public inquiries shall be conducted with as little emphasis on an adversarial approach as is possible.
- (3) Despite subsection (1), section 127 (Religious confessions) of the [Evidence Act 1995](#) applies to any compulsory examination or public inquiry before the Commission.

## **18 Court proceedings**

- (1) The Commission may do any or all of the following—
  - (a) commence, continue, discontinue or complete any investigation,
  - (b) furnish reports in connection with any investigation,
  - (c) do all such acts and things as are necessary or expedient for those purposes, despite any proceedings that may be in or before any court, tribunal, coroner,

Magistrate or other person.

- (2) If the proceedings are proceedings for an indictable offence and are conducted by or on behalf of the Crown, the Commission must, to the extent to which the Commission thinks it necessary to do so to ensure that the accused's right to a fair trial is not prejudiced—
  - (a) ensure that, as far as practicable, the investigation is conducted in private during the currency of the proceedings, and
  - (b) give directions under section 112, having effect during the currency of the proceedings, and
  - (c) defer making a report to Parliament in relation to the investigation during the currency of the proceedings.
- (2A) Subsection (2) does not apply—
  - (a) (in the case of committal proceedings) before the commencement of the committal hearing, and
  - (b) (in any other case) after the proceedings cease to be proceedings for the trial of a person before a jury.
- (3) This section has effect whether or not the proceedings commenced before or after the relevant investigation commenced and has effect whether or not the Commission or an officer of the Commission is a party to the proceedings.

## **19 Incidental powers**

- (1) The Commission has power to do all things necessary to be done for or in connection with, or reasonably incidental to, the exercise of its functions, and any specific powers conferred on the Commission by this Act shall not be taken to limit by implication the generality of this section.
- (2) The Commission or an officer of the Commission may seek the issue of a warrant under the [Surveillance Devices Act 2007](#).

## **Division 2 Investigations**

### **20 Investigations generally**

- (1) The Commission may conduct an investigation on its own initiative, on a complaint made to it, on a report made to it or on a reference made to it.
- (2) The Commission may conduct an investigation even though no particular public official or other person has been implicated.
- (3) The Commission may, in considering whether or not to conduct, continue or

discontinue an investigation (other than in relation to a matter referred by both Houses of Parliament), have regard to such matters as it thinks fit, including whether or not (in the Commission's opinion)—

- (a) the subject-matter of the investigation is trivial, or
  - (b) the conduct concerned occurred at too remote a time to justify investigation, or
  - (c) if the investigation was initiated as a result of a complaint—the complaint was frivolous, vexatious or not in good faith.
- (4) (Repealed)
- (5) If the Commission decides to discontinue or not to commence an investigation of a complaint or report made to it, the Commission must inform the complainant or officer who made the report in writing of its decision and the reasons for it.

## **20A Preliminary investigations**

- (1) An investigation may be in the nature of a preliminary investigation.
- (2) A preliminary examination can be conducted, for example, for the purpose of assisting the Commission—
  - (a) to discover or identify conduct that might be made the subject of a more complete investigation under this Act, or
  - (b) to decide whether to make particular conduct the subject of a more complete investigation under this Act.
- (3) Nothing in this section affects any other provision of this Act.

## **21 Power to obtain information**

- (1) For the purposes of an investigation, the Commission may, by notice in writing served on a public authority or public official, require the authority or official to produce a statement of information.
- (2) A notice under this section must specify or describe the information concerned, must fix a time and date for compliance and must specify the person (being a Commissioner, an Assistant Commissioner or any other officer of the Commission) to whom the production is to be made.
- (3) The notice may provide that the requirement may be satisfied by some other person acting on behalf of the public authority or public official and may, but need not, specify the person or class of persons who may so act.

## **22 Power to obtain documents etc**

- (1) For the purposes of an investigation, the Commission may, by notice in writing served on a person (whether or not a public authority or public official), require the person—
  - (a) to attend, at a time and place specified in the notice, before a person (being a Commissioner, an Assistant Commissioner or any other officer of the Commission) specified in the notice, and
  - (b) to produce at that time and place to the person so specified a document or other thing specified in the notice.
- (2) The notice may provide that the requirement may be satisfied by some other person acting on behalf of the person on whom it was imposed and may, but need not, specify the person or class of persons who may so act.

## **23 Power to enter public premises**

- (1) For the purposes of an investigation, a Commissioner or an officer of the Commission authorised in writing by a Commissioner may, at any time—
  - (a) enter and inspect any premises occupied or used by a public authority or public official in that capacity, and
  - (b) inspect any document or other thing in or on the premises, and
  - (c) take copies of any document in or on the premises.
- (2) (Repealed)
- (3) The public authority or public official shall make available to a Commissioner or authorised officer such facilities as are necessary to enable the powers conferred by this section to be exercised.

## **24 Privilege as regards information, documents etc**

- (1) This section applies where, under section 21 or 22, the Commission requires any person—
  - (a) to produce any statement of information, or
  - (b) to produce any document or other thing.
- (2) The Commission shall set aside the requirement if it appears to the Commission that any person has a ground of privilege whereby, in proceedings in a court of law, the person might resist a like requirement and it does not appear to the Commission that the person consents to compliance with the requirement.
- (3) The person must however comply with the requirement despite—

- (a) any rule which in proceedings in a court of law might justify an objection to compliance with a like requirement on grounds of public interest, or
- (b) any privilege of a public authority or public official in that capacity which the authority or official could have claimed in a court of law, or
- (c) any duty of secrecy or other restriction on disclosure applying to a public authority or public official or a former public authority or public official.

## **25 Privilege as regards entry on public premises**

- (1) This section applies to the powers of entry, inspection and copying conferred by section 23.
- (2) The powers shall not be exercised if it appears to a Commissioner or authorised officer that any person has a ground of privilege whereby, in proceedings in a court of law, the person might resist inspection of the premises or production of the document or other thing and it does not appear to the Commissioner or authorised officer that the person consents to the inspection or production.
- (3) The powers may however be exercised despite—
  - (a) any rule of law which, in proceedings in a court of law, might justify an objection to an inspection of the premises or to production of the document or other thing on grounds of public interest, or
  - (b) any privilege of a public authority or public official in that capacity which the authority or official could have claimed in a court of law, or
  - (c) any duty of secrecy or other restriction on disclosure applying to a public authority or public official.

## **26 Self-incrimination**

- (1) This section applies where, under section 21 or 22, the Commission requires any person—
  - (a) to produce any statement of information, or
  - (b) to produce any document or other thing.
- (2) If the statement, document or other thing tends to incriminate the person and the person objects to production at the time, neither the fact of the requirement nor the statement, document or thing itself (if produced) may be used in any proceedings against the person (except proceedings for an offence against this Act or except as provided by section 114A (5)).
- (3) They may however be used for the purposes of the investigation concerned, despite any such objection.



## **27 Injunctions**

The Supreme Court may, on application made by the Commission, grant an injunction restraining any conduct in which a person (whether or not a public authority or public official) is engaging or in which such a person appears likely to engage, if the conduct is the subject of, or affects the subject of, an investigation or proposed investigation by the Commission.

## **28 Provisions relating to injunctions**

- (1) The Supreme Court shall not grant an injunction under section 27 unless it is of the opinion that—
  - (a) the conduct sought to be restrained is likely to impede the conduct of the investigation or proposed investigation, or
  - (b) it is necessary to restrain the conduct in order to prevent irreparable harm being done because of corrupt conduct or suspected corrupt conduct.
- (2) The Commission shall not be required, as a condition for the granting of an injunction under section 27, to give any undertaking as to damages.

## **29 Powers exercisable whether or not compulsory examination or public inquiry being held**

Powers may be exercised under this Division in relation to an investigation whether or not a compulsory examination or public inquiry before the Commission is being held for the purposes of the investigation.

## **Division 3 Compulsory examinations and public inquiries**

### **30 Compulsory examinations**

- (1) For the purposes of an investigation, the Commission may, if it is satisfied that it is in the public interest to do so, conduct a compulsory examination.
- (2) A compulsory examination is to be conducted by a Commissioner or by an Assistant Commissioner, as determined by a Commissioner.
- (3) A person required to attend a compulsory examination is entitled to be informed, before or at the commencement of the compulsory examination, of the nature of the allegation or complaint being investigated.
- (4) A failure to comply with subsection (3) does not invalidate or otherwise affect the compulsory examination.
- (5) A compulsory examination is to be conducted in private.

**Note—**

Section 17 (2) requires the Commission to conduct compulsory examinations with as little emphasis on an adversarial approach as possible.

- (6) The Commission may (but is not required to) advise a person required to attend a compulsory examination of any findings it has made or opinions it has formed as a result of the compulsory examination.

### **31 Public inquiries**

- (1) For the purposes of an investigation, the Commission may, if it is satisfied that it is in the public interest to do so, conduct a public inquiry.
- (2) Without limiting the factors that it may take into account in determining whether or not it is in the public interest to conduct a public inquiry, the Commission is to consider the following—
  - (a) the benefit of exposing to the public, and making it aware, of corrupt conduct,
  - (b) the seriousness of the allegation or complaint being investigated,
  - (c) any risk of undue prejudice to a person's reputation (including prejudice that might arise from not holding an inquiry),
  - (d) whether the public interest in exposing the matter is outweighed by the public interest in preserving the privacy of the persons concerned.
- (3) (Repealed)
- (4) A public inquiry is to be conducted by a Commissioner or by an Assistant Commissioner, as determined by the Chief Commissioner.
- (5) At a public inquiry, the person presiding must announce the general scope and purpose of the inquiry.
- (6) A person required to attend a public inquiry is entitled to be informed of the general scope and purpose of the public inquiry and the nature of the allegation or complaint being investigated before or at the time the person is required to appear at the inquiry.
- (7) A failure to comply with subsection (6) does not invalidate or otherwise affect the public inquiry.
- (8) A public inquiry is to be held in public.
- (9) Despite subsection (8), the Commission may decide to hold part of the inquiry in private if it considers this to be in the public interest.
- (10) Without limiting subsection (9), the Commission may decide to hear closing submissions in private. This extends to a closing submission by a person appearing

before the Commission or an Australian legal practitioner representing such a person, as well as to a closing submission by an Australian legal practitioner assisting the Commission as counsel.

**Note—**

Section 17 (2) requires the Commission to conduct public inquiries with as little emphasis on an adversarial approach as possible.

**31A Directions as to presence of persons at compulsory examinations and public inquiries**

A Commissioner may give directions as to the persons who may be present at a compulsory examination or any part of a public inquiry that is held in private. A person must not be present in contravention of any such direction.

**Note—**

It is an offence to contravene a direction under section 31A—see section 85.

**31B Procedural guidelines relating to public inquiries**

- (1) The Commissioners are to issue guidelines relating to the conduct of public inquiries of the Commission to members of staff of the Commission and counsel appointed under section 106 to assist the Commission.
- (2) The guidelines are to provide guidance on the following aspects of the conduct of public inquiries—
  - (a) the investigation of evidence that might exculpate affected persons,
  - (b) the disclosure of exculpatory and other relevant evidence to affected persons,
  - (c) the opportunity to cross-examine witnesses as to their credibility,
  - (d) providing affected persons and other witnesses with access to relevant documents and a reasonable time to prepare before giving evidence,
  - (e) any other matter the Commission considers necessary to ensure procedural fairness.
- (3) The Commission is to arrange for the guidelines to be tabled in both Houses of Parliament and to be published on a website maintained by the Commission.
- (4) In this section—

***affected person*** means a person against whom substantial allegations have been made in the course of or in connection with the public inquiry concerned.

**32 Right of appearance of affected person**

If it is shown to the satisfaction of the Commission that any person is substantially and directly interested in any subject-matter of a public inquiry, the Commission may

authorise the person to appear at the public inquiry or a specified part of the public inquiry.

### **33 Legal representation**

- (1) The Commission may, in relation to a compulsory examination or public inquiry, authorise—
  - (a) a person giving evidence at the compulsory examination or public inquiry, or
  - (b) a person referred to in section 32,to be represented by an Australian legal practitioner at the compulsory examination or public inquiry or a specified part of the compulsory examination or public inquiry.
- (2) The Commission is required to give a reasonable opportunity for a person giving evidence at the compulsory examination or public inquiry to be legally represented.
- (3) An Australian legal practitioner appointed by the Commission to assist it may appear before the Commission.

### **33A Groups and unincorporated associations**

- (1) A group or unincorporated association may be authorised to appear at a compulsory examination or public inquiry or authorised or required to give evidence at a compulsory examination or public inquiry.
- (2) Accordingly, references in sections 32 and 33, and in other provisions of this Act, to a “person” extend for this purpose to a group or unincorporated association.
- (3) However, this section does not affect the application in any other context of the principle that a reference to a word in the singular form includes a reference to the word in the plural form.

### **34 Examination and cross-examination**

- (1) An Australian legal practitioner appointed by the Commission to assist it, or a person or a person’s Australian legal practitioner authorised to appear at a compulsory examination or public inquiry, may, with the leave of the Commission, examine or cross-examine any witness on any matter that the Commission considers relevant.
- (2) Any witness so examined or cross-examined has the same protection and is subject to the same liabilities as if examined by a Commissioner or an Assistant Commissioner.

### **35 Power to summon witnesses and take evidence**

- (1) A Commissioner may summon a person to appear before the Commission at a compulsory examination or public inquiry at a time and place named in the summons (the ***required appearance***)—

- (a) to give evidence, or
  - (b) to produce such documents or other things (if any) as are referred to in the summons,
- or both.
- (2) The person presiding at a compulsory examination or public inquiry before the Commission may require a person appearing at the compulsory examination or public inquiry to produce a document or other thing.
  - (3) The Commission may, at a compulsory examination or public inquiry, take evidence on oath or affirmation and for that purpose—
    - (a) the person presiding at the compulsory examination or public inquiry may require a person appearing at the compulsory examination or public inquiry to give evidence either to take an oath or to make an affirmation in a form approved by the person presiding, and
    - (b) the person presiding, or a person authorised for the purpose by the person presiding, may administer an oath or affirmation to a person so appearing at the compulsory examination or public inquiry.
  - (4) A witness who has been summoned to appear before the Commission shall appear and report himself or herself from day to day unless the witness is excused from appearance or until the witness is released from further appearance by the person presiding at the compulsory examination or public inquiry.
  - (4A) A Commissioner may, by notice in writing, excuse a person who has been summoned to appear before the Commission and produce documents or other things from the required appearance on condition that the person (or a person acting on the person's behalf) produces those documents or things in accordance with any directions given by the Commissioner before the time of the required appearance.
  - (5) A person who, without being excused or released under subsection (4) or (4A), fails to appear and report shall be taken to have failed to appear before the Commission in obedience to the summons.
  - (5A) A person who, after being excused under subsection (4A) from the required appearance, fails to produce the documents or things concerned in accordance with the Commissioner's directions is taken to have failed to appear before the Commission in obedience to the summons.
  - (6) A Judge or Magistrate may, on the application of a Commissioner, issue any summons that the Commissioner is authorised to issue under this section.
  - (7) The purpose of subsection (6) is to enable the summons to be given the character of a

summons issued by a judicial officer, for the purposes of the *Service and Execution of Process Act 1901* of the Commonwealth and any other relevant law.

### **36 Arrest of witness**

- (1) If a person served with a summons to attend the Commission as a witness fails to attend in answer to the summons, a Commissioner may, on proof by statutory declaration of the service of the summons, issue a warrant for the arrest of the witness.
- (2) If a Commissioner is satisfied by evidence on oath or affirmation that it is probable that a person whose evidence is desired and is necessary and relevant to an investigation under this Act—
  - (a) will not attend before the Commission to give evidence without being compelled to do so, or
  - (b) is about to or is making preparations to leave the State and the person's evidence will not be obtained by the Commission if the person departs,the Commissioner may issue a warrant for the arrest of the person.
- (3) A Commissioner is authorised to administer an oath or affirmation for the purposes of subsection (2).
- (4) A warrant may be issued under subsection (2) without or before the issue of a summons to the person whose evidence is desired.
- (5) A warrant may be issued under subsection (2) after the issue of a summons to the person whose evidence is desired, even though the time named in the summons for the person to attend has not yet passed.
- (6) A warrant under this section authorises the arrest of the witness and his or her being promptly brought before the Commission and detained in a prison or elsewhere for that purpose until released by order of a Commissioner.
- (7) A warrant issued under this section may be executed by any member of the NSW Police Force, or by any person to whom it is addressed, and the person executing it may use such force as is reasonably necessary for the purpose of entering any premises for the purpose of executing it.
- (8) The issue of a warrant or the arrest of a witness does not relieve the witness from any liability incurred by the witness for non-compliance with a summons.

### **36A Conditional release of witness**

- (1) The release of a witness by order of a Commissioner under section 36 (6) may (but need not) be made subject to one or more of the following conditions (or any other

conditions)—

- (a) that the witness appear and report himself or herself before the Commission in accordance with the terms of the order unless excused from attendance or until released from further attendance by the person presiding at the relevant compulsory examination or public inquiry of the Commission, and
  - (b) conditions for the purpose of ensuring the further attendance of the witness before the Commission (for example the provision of sureties by the witness, the surrender of any passport held by the witness, a requirement as to where the witness is to live and regular reporting by the witness to the Commission).
- (2) From time to time, a Commissioner may by order amend, revoke or add to those conditions.

### **36B Review by Supreme Court**

- (1) A witness who has not been released by a Commissioner under section 36 (6) or whose release under that subsection is subject to one or more conditions may apply to the Supreme Court for a review of the decision not to release or failure to release the witness or of the terms of one or more of those conditions.
- (2) The Supreme Court may affirm or set aside a decision by a Commissioner not to release the witness or any condition imposed by a Commissioner on the release of the witness. The Supreme Court may also or instead make any order that a Commissioner may make in relation to the detention or release of the witness. The Court may do so also where a Commissioner has not made any decision within a reasonable time on the release of the witness.
- (3) Such an order is taken to be an order of a Commissioner.

### **37 Privilege as regards answers, documents etc**

- (1) A witness summoned to attend or appearing before the Commission at a compulsory examination or public inquiry is not entitled to refuse—
  - (a) to be sworn or to make an affirmation, or
  - (b) to answer any question relevant to an investigation put to the witness by the Commissioner or other person presiding at a compulsory examination or public inquiry, or
  - (c) to produce any document or other thing in the witness's custody or control which the witness is required by the summons or by the person presiding to produce.
- (2) A witness summoned to attend or appearing before the Commission at a compulsory examination or public inquiry is not excused from answering any question or producing any document or other thing on the ground that the answer or production

may incriminate or tend to incriminate the witness, or on any other ground of privilege, or on the ground of a duty of secrecy or other restriction on disclosure, or on any other ground.

- (3) An answer made, or document or other thing produced, by a witness at a compulsory examination or public inquiry before the Commission or in accordance with a direction given by a Commissioner under section 35 (4A) is not (except as otherwise provided in this section or section 114A (5)) admissible in evidence against the person in any civil or criminal proceedings or in any disciplinary proceedings.
- (4) Nothing in this section makes inadmissible—
- (a) any answer, document or other thing in proceedings for an offence against this Act or in proceedings for contempt under this Act, or
  - (b) any answer, document or other thing in any civil or criminal proceedings or in any disciplinary proceedings if the witness does not object to giving the answer or producing the document or other thing irrespective of the provisions of subsection (2), or
  - (c) any document in any civil proceedings for or in respect of any right or liability conferred or imposed by the document or other thing.
- (5) Where—
- (a) an Australian legal practitioner or other person is required to answer a question or produce a document or other thing at a compulsory examination or public inquiry before the Commission or in accordance with a direction given by a Commissioner under section 35 (4A), and
  - (b) the answer to the question would disclose, or the document or other thing contains, a privileged communication passing between an Australian legal practitioner (in his or her capacity as an Australian legal practitioner) and a person for the purpose of providing or receiving legal professional services in relation to the appearance, or reasonably anticipated appearance, of a person at a compulsory examination or public inquiry before the Commission,
- the Australian legal practitioner or other person is entitled to refuse to comply with the requirement, unless the privilege is waived by a person having authority to do so.
- (6) (Repealed)

### **38 Declaration as to objections by witness**

The Commissioner or person presiding at the compulsory examination or public inquiry may declare that all or any classes of answers given by a witness or that all or any classes of documents or other things produced by a witness will be regarded as having been given or produced on objection by the witness, and there is accordingly no need for the



witness to make an objection in respect of each such answer, document or other thing.

### **39 Attendance of prisoner before Commission**

- (1) If a Commissioner requires the attendance at a compulsory examination or public inquiry before the Commission of a prisoner, the Commissioner may, by order in writing served on the governor of the prison in whose custody the prisoner is, direct the governor to produce the prisoner, or have the prisoner produced, at the time and place stated in the order.
- (2) Such an order is sufficient authority to the governor of the prison for producing or having produced the prisoner, who shall be produced accordingly.
- (3) A prisoner shall, when produced under this section in the actual custody of the governor of the prison, a prison officer or a member of the NSW Police Force, be taken to be in lawful custody.
- (4) The governor, prison officer or member of the NSW Police Force shall in due course return the prisoner to the prison.
- (5) In this section, **governor of a prison**, **prison** and **prisoner** have the same meanings as **governor**, **correctional centre** and **inmate** have in the [Crimes \(Administration of Sentences\) Act 1999](#).

## **Division 4 Search warrants**

### **40 Issue of search warrant**

- (1) An authorised officer to whom an application is made under subsection (4) may issue a search warrant if satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for doing so.
- (2) A Commissioner, on application made to the Commissioner under subsection (4), may issue a search warrant if the Commissioner thinks fit in the circumstances and if satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for doing so.
- (3) Search warrants should, as far as practicable, be issued by authorised officers, but nothing in this subsection affects the discretion of a Commissioner to issue them.
- (4) An officer of the Commission may apply to an authorised officer or a Commissioner for a search warrant if the officer has reasonable grounds for believing that there is in or on any premises a document or other thing connected with any matter that is being investigated under this Act or that such a document or other thing may, within the next following 72 hours, be brought into or onto the premises.

### **41 Authority conferred by warrant**

- (1) A search warrant authorises any member of the NSW Police Force, or any other person, named in the warrant—

(a) to enter the premises, and

(b) to search the premises for documents or other things connected with any matter that is being investigated under this Act, and

(c) to seize any such documents or other things found in or on the premises and deliver them to the Commission.

(2) A member of the NSW Police Force, or a senior Commission investigator, named in and executing a search warrant may search a person found in or on the premises whom the member of the NSW Police Force or senior Commission investigator reasonably suspects of having a document or other thing mentioned in the warrant.

(3) In this section—

**senior Commission investigator** means an officer of the Commission who is designated by the Chief Commissioner as a senior investigator and who is issued by the Chief Commissioner with means of identification as such a senior Commission investigator.

#### **42 Duty to show warrant**

A person executing a search warrant shall produce the warrant for inspection by an occupier of the premises if requested to do so by that occupier.

#### **43 Use of force**

(1) A person authorised to enter premises under a search warrant may use such force as is reasonably necessary for the purpose of entering the premises.

(2) A person authorised to enter premises under a search warrant may, if it is reasonably necessary to do so, break open any receptacle in or on the premises for the purposes of the search.

#### **44 Use of assistants to execute warrant**

A person may execute a search warrant with the aid of such assistants as the person considers necessary.

#### **45 Execution of warrant by day or night**

(1) A search warrant may be executed by day, but shall not be executed by night unless the person issuing the warrant, by the warrant, authorises its execution by night.

(2) In this section—

**by day** means during the period between 6 am and 9 pm on any day.

**by night** means during the period between 9 pm on any day and 6 am on the

following day.

#### **46 Expiry of warrant**

A search warrant ceases to have effect—

- (a) one month after its issue, or
- (b) if it is withdrawn by the person who issued the warrant, or
- (c) when it is executed,

whichever first occurs.

#### **47 Seizure pursuant to warrant—special provisions**

(1) If, in the course of searching, in accordance with the terms of a search warrant, for documents or other things—

- (a) the person executing the warrant finds a document or other thing that the person believes on reasonable grounds to be evidence that would be admissible in the prosecution of a person for an indictable offence against the law of the Commonwealth, a State or a Territory, and
- (b) the first-mentioned person believes on reasonable grounds that it is necessary to seize the document or other thing in order to prevent its concealment, loss, mutilation or destruction, or its use in committing such an offence,

that person may seize the document or other thing and, if it is so seized, it shall be taken, for the purposes of this Act, to have been seized pursuant to the warrant.

(2) If a document or other thing is seized pursuant to a search warrant—

- (a) the Commission may retain the document or other thing if, and for so long as, its retention by the Commission is reasonably necessary for the purposes of an investigation to which it is relevant, and
- (b) if the retention of the document or other thing by the Commission is not, or ceases to be, reasonably necessary for such purposes, the Commission shall cause it to be delivered to—
  - (i) the person who appears to the Commission to be entitled to possession of the document or other thing, or
  - (ii) the Attorney General or the Director of Public Prosecutions, with a recommendation as to what action should be taken in relation to the document or other thing.

## **48 Search warrants**

- (1) Division 4 of Part 5 of the *Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002* (other than sections 69–73A) applies to a search warrant issued under this Act.
- (2) Division 4 of Part 5 of the *Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002* so applies as if references in that Division to an authorised officer to whom an application for a search warrant is made or by whom a search warrant is issued included (where relevant) references to a Commissioner, where such an application is made to a Commissioner or a search warrant is issued by a Commissioner.

## **Division 4A Disposal of property**

### **48A Application to property**

This Division applies to property—

- (a) that is lawfully in the custody of the Commission in connection with an investigation, and
- (b) is not required for the purposes of an investigation or a criminal prosecution or disciplinary or other proceeding.

### **48B Disposal of property on application to court**

- (1) The Commission may apply to a court for an order under this Division in relation to property to which this Division applies if it appears to the Commission that no person is lawfully entitled to the property.
- (2) A court to which such an application is made may order that the property be dealt with as the court thinks fit.
- (3) Without limiting subsection (2), in determining an application a court may—
  - (a) order that the property be forfeited to the Crown, and
  - (b) make any necessary incidental or ancillary orders.
- (4) Property ordered to be forfeited to the Crown—
  - (a) if money, is to be paid to the Treasurer for payment into the Consolidated Fund, or
  - (b) in any other case, may be sold by or on behalf of the Commission at public auction and the proceeds of sale paid to the Treasurer for payment into the Consolidated Fund.
- (5) If the property is not money or is not fit or suitable for sale, or fails to sell at public auction, it is to be disposed of in accordance with the directions of the Commission.

#### **48C Application to Treasurer for recovery of money or proceeds of sale**

A person who is lawfully entitled to any property that has been dealt with in accordance with this Division may recover from the Treasurer the money or proceeds of sale held by the Treasurer. This Act authorises the Treasurer to pay the amount out of the Consolidated Fund (which is appropriated to the necessary extent).

#### **48D Courts having jurisdiction under this Division**

The court to which an application under this Division may be made is—

- (a) the Local Court, if the estimated value of the property (or the amount of the money) does not exceed \$40,000, or
- (b) the District Court, if the estimated value of the property (or the amount of the money) exceeds \$40,000 but does not exceed \$250,000, or
- (c) the Supreme Court, if the estimated value of the property (or the amount of the money) exceeds \$250,000.

### **Division 5 Miscellaneous**

#### **49 Indemnities and undertakings**

- (1) The Commission may recommend to the Attorney General that a person be granted (under section 32 of the [Criminal Procedure Act 1986](#)) an indemnity from prosecution.
- (2) The Commission may recommend to the Attorney General that a person be given (under section 33 of the [Criminal Procedure Act 1986](#)) an undertaking that—
  - (a) an answer, statement or disclosure in proceedings before the Commission, or
  - (b) the fact of a disclosure or production of a document in proceedings before the Commission,will not be used in evidence against the person.
- (3) Section 33 of the [Criminal Procedure Act 1986](#) applies in relation to proceedings before the Commission in the same way as it applies in relation to proceedings for an offence.
- (4) A reference in this section to proceedings before the Commission includes a reference to a compulsory examination or public inquiry conducted by the Commission or any other investigative activity involving the Commission or an officer of the Commission.

#### **50 (Repealed)**

#### **51 Reimbursement of expenses of witnesses**

A witness appearing before the Commission shall be paid, out of money provided by

Parliament, in respect of the expenses of the witness's attendance an amount ascertained in accordance with the prescribed scale or, if there is no prescribed scale, such amount as the Commission determines.

## **52 Legal and financial assistance for witness**

- (1) A witness who is appearing or about to appear before the Commission may apply to the Attorney General for legal or financial assistance.
- (2) The Attorney General may approve the provision of legal or financial assistance to the applicant if of the opinion that this is appropriate, having regard to any one or more of the following—
  - (a) the prospect of hardship to the witness if assistance is declined,
  - (b) the significance of the evidence that the witness is giving or appears likely to give,
  - (c) any other matter relating to the public interest.
- (3) On giving the approval, the Attorney General may authorise the provision to the witness of legal or financial assistance determined by the Attorney General in respect of the witness's appearance before the Commission. The assistance is to be provided out of money provided by Parliament for the purpose.
- (4) The assistance may be provided unconditionally or subject to conditions determined by the Attorney General.
- (5) The Attorney General may delegate one or more of his or her functions under this section to the Secretary, a Deputy Secretary or the General Counsel of the Department of Communities and Justice.

## **52A Investigative powers exercisable after completion of Commission's investigations for purposes of prosecutions**

- (1) This section applies to the function of the Commission under section 14 of gathering and assembling evidence that may be admissible in the prosecution of a person for a criminal offence and of furnishing that evidence to the Director of Public Prosecutions or to the Electoral Commission.
- (2) The powers under sections 21, 22, 23 and 40 may be exercised for the purposes of that function after the completion of the Commission's investigations into a matter if the Director of Public Prosecutions or the Electoral Commission requests the Commission to do so.

## **Part 5 Referral of matters by Commission**

### **53 Referral of matter**

- (1) The Commission may, before or after investigating a matter (whether or not the

investigation is completed, and whether or not the Commission has made any findings), refer the matter for investigation or other action to any person or body considered by the Commission to be appropriate in the circumstances.

- (2) The person or body to whom a matter is referred is called in this Part a **relevant authority**.
- (3) The Commission may, when referring a matter, recommend what action should be taken by the relevant authority and the time within which it should be taken.
- (4) The Commission may communicate to the relevant authority any information which the Commission has obtained during the investigation of conduct connected with the matter.
- (5) The Commission shall not refer a matter to a person or body except after appropriate consultation with the person or body and after taking into consideration the views of the person or body.
- (6) If the Commission communicates information to a person or body under this section on the understanding that the information is confidential, the person or body is subject to the secrecy provisions of section 111 in relation to the information.

#### **54 Report to Commission**

- (1) The Commission may, when referring a matter under this Part, require the relevant authority to submit to the Commission a report or reports in relation to the matter and the action taken by the relevant authority.
- (2) A report shall be of such a nature as the Commission directs.
- (3) A report shall be submitted to the Commission within such time as the Commission directs.

#### **55 Further action by Commission**

- (1) If the Commission is not satisfied that a relevant authority has duly and properly taken action in connection with a matter referred under this Part, the Commission shall inform the relevant authority of the grounds of the Commission's dissatisfaction and shall give the relevant authority an opportunity to comment within a specified time.
- (2) If, after considering any comments received from the relevant authority within the specified time, the Commission is still not satisfied, the Commission may submit a report to the Minister for the relevant authority setting out the recommendation concerned and the grounds of dissatisfaction, together with any comments from the relevant authority and the Commission.
- (3) If, after considering any comments received from the Minister for the authority within

21 days after the report was submitted to that Minister under subsection (2), the Commission is still of the opinion that the recommendation should be adopted, the Commission may make a report as referred to in section 77.

#### **56 Responsibility of relevant authority**

It is the duty of a relevant authority to comply with any requirement or direction of the Commission under this Part.

#### **57 Revocation of referral, recommendation etc**

- (1) The Commission may revoke a referral under this Part.
- (2) The Commission may revoke or vary a recommendation, requirement or direction of the Commission under this Part.
- (3) The Commission may vary any time within which a requirement under this Part is to be complied with.

### **Part 5A Inspector of the Independent Commission Against Corruption**

#### **57A Inspector of the Independent Commission Against Corruption**

- (1) **Appointment** The Governor may appoint an Inspector of the Independent Commission Against Corruption.
- (2) **Schedule of provisions relating to Inspector** Schedule 1A has effect.

#### **57AA Assistant Inspector**

- (1) The Governor may, with the concurrence of the Inspector, appoint an Assistant Inspector of the Independent Commission Against Corruption.
- (2) An Assistant Inspector may, to the extent to which he or she is directed by the Inspector to do so, exercise any function of the Inspector and for that purpose is taken to be the Inspector.

#### **57AB (Repealed)**

#### **57B Principal functions of Inspector**

- (1) The principal functions of the Inspector are—
  - (a) to audit the operations of the Commission for the purpose of monitoring compliance with the law of the State, and
  - (b) to deal with (by reports and recommendations) complaints of abuse of power, impropriety and other forms of misconduct on the part of the Commission or officers of the Commission, and



- (c) to deal with (by reports and recommendations) conduct amounting to maladministration (including, without limitation, delay in the conduct of investigations and unreasonable invasions of privacy) by the Commission or officers of the Commission, and
- (d) to assess the effectiveness and appropriateness of the procedures of the Commission relating to the legality or propriety of its activities.

**Note—**

Protections may be available under the following provisions to persons who make a complaint referred to in this section—

- (a) the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022*, Part 3—if the complaint is a public interest disclosure,
  - (b) Part 8A—if the making of the complaint is protected action within the meaning of the Part.
- (2) The functions of the Inspector may be exercised on the Inspector’s own initiative, at the request of the Minister, in response to a complaint made to the Inspector or in response to a reference by the Joint Committee or any public authority or public official.
  - (3) The Inspector is not subject to the Commission in any respect.
  - (4) For the purposes of this section, conduct is of a kind that amounts to maladministration if it involves action or inaction of a serious nature that is—
    - (a) contrary to law, or
    - (b) unreasonable, unjust, oppressive or improperly discriminatory, or
    - (c) based wholly or partly on improper motives.
  - (5) Without affecting the power of the Inspector to make a report under Part 8, the Inspector may, at any time—
    - (a) make a recommendation or report concerning any matter relating to the functions of the Inspector under this section that the Inspector considers may effectively be dealt with by recommendation or report under this section, and
    - (b) provide the report or recommendation (or any relevant part of it) to the Commission, an officer of the Commission, a person who made a complaint or any other affected person.

**57C Powers of Inspector**

- (1) The Inspector—
  - (a) may investigate any aspect of the Commission’s operations or any conduct of officers of the Commission, and

- (b) is entitled to full access to the records of the Commission and to take or have copies made of any of them, and
  - (c) may require officers of the Commission to supply information or produce documents or other things about any matter, or any class or kind of matters, relating to the Commission's operations or any conduct of officers of the Commission, and
  - (d) may require officers of the Commission to attend before the Inspector to answer questions or produce documents or other things relating to the Commission's operations or any conduct of officers of the Commission, and
  - (e) may investigate and assess complaints about the Commission or officers of the Commission, and
  - (f) may refer matters relating to the Commission or officers of the Commission to other public authorities or public officials for consideration or action, and
  - (g) may recommend disciplinary action or criminal prosecution against officers of the Commission.
- (2) If the Inspector makes a recommendation or report to the Commission in exercising functions under section 57B, the Inspector may require the Commission to give the Inspector, within a reasonable time specified by the Inspector—
- (a) advice about whether the Commission intends to implement the recommendation or report, and
  - (b) if the Commission does not intend to implement the recommendation or report—the reasons for not implementing the recommendation or report.
- (3) If the Inspector is not satisfied the Commission has duly and properly taken action in relation to the recommendation or report made to the Commission by the Inspector, the Inspector must—
- (a) inform the Commission of the grounds of the Inspector's dissatisfaction, and
  - (b) give the Commission an opportunity to comment within a specified time.
- (4) If, after considering any comments received from the Commission within the specified time, the Inspector is still not satisfied, the Inspector may make a report to the Presiding Officer of each House of Parliament setting out—
- (a) the Inspector's recommendation or report, and
  - (b) the grounds of the Inspector's dissatisfaction, and
  - (c) any comments from the Commission and the Inspector.

### **57D Inquiries**

- (1) For the purposes of the Inspector's functions, the Inspector may make or hold inquiries.
- (2) For the purposes of any inquiry under this section, the Inspector has the powers, authorities, protections and immunities conferred on a commissioner by Division 1 of Part 2 of the *Royal Commissions Act 1923* and that Act (section 13 excepted) applies to any witness summoned by or appearing before the Inspector in the same way as it applies to a witness summoned by or appearing before a commissioner.
- (3) A witness summoned by or appearing before the Inspector is to be paid such amount as the Inspector determines, but not exceeding the amount that would be payable to such a witness if he or she were a Crown witness subpoenaed by the Crown to give evidence.

### **57E Staff of Inspector**

- (1) Persons employed in the Public Service under the *Government Sector Employment Act 2013* to enable the Inspector to exercise his or her functions are subject to the control and direction of the Inspector.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not affect the exercise of the functions under the *Government Sector Employment Act 2013* of the head of the Public Service agency in which those persons are employed. The head of that agency may delegate those functions under that Act to the Inspector.
- (3) The Inspector may engage persons as consultants to the Inspector or to perform services for the Inspector.
- (4) The Inspector may arrange for the use of the services of—
  - (a) any staff or facilities of the Commission, a Department or a local or public authority, or
  - (b) any staff who are employed by or for or assigned to the person who is Inspector, in his or her capacity as the holder of some other position (for example, as a Judge).
- (4A) (Repealed)
- (5) Such provisions of this Act as are prescribed by the regulations apply to persons referred to in subsections (1)–(4) in the same way as they apply to staff of the Commission, with any necessary adaptations and with such modifications as are prescribed.
- (6) (Repealed)

### **57F Incidental powers**

- (1) The Inspector has power to do all things necessary to be done for or in connection with, or reasonably incidental to, the exercise of the Inspector's functions. Any specific powers conferred on the Inspector by this Act are not taken to limit by implication the generality of this section.
- (2) Section 40 of the *Surveillance Devices Act 2007* does not apply to the use, publication or communication of protected information within the meaning of that Act in relation to the exercise of the Inspector's functions under section 57B.

### **57G Former officers of the Commission**

For the avoidance of doubt, a reference in any other provision of this Part to an officer of the Commission includes a reference to a former officer of the Commission.

## **Part 6**

### **58-62 (Repealed)**

## **Part 7 Parliamentary Joint Committee**

### **63 Constitution of Joint Committee**

As soon as practicable after the commencement of this Part and the commencement of the first session of each Parliament, a joint committee of members of Parliament, to be known as the Committee on the Independent Commission Against Corruption, shall be appointed.

### **64 Functions**

- (1) The functions of the Joint Committee are as follows—
  - (a) to monitor and to review the exercise by the Commission and the Inspector of the Commission's and Inspector's functions,
  - (a1) to examine and report to both Houses of Parliament about the annual appropriation for the services of the Commission,

**Note—**

See the *Government Sector Finance Act 2018*, section 4.14B(5) which provides for the Joint Committee to examine and report within 3 months after receiving notice under that section of the amount proposed to be appropriated.

- (b) to report to both Houses of Parliament, with such comments as it thinks fit, on any other matter appertaining to the Commission or the Inspector or connected with the exercise of its functions to which, in the opinion of the Joint Committee, the attention of Parliament should be directed,
- (c) to examine each annual and other report of the Commission and of the Inspector

and report to both Houses of Parliament on any matter appearing in, or arising out of, any such report,

- (d) to examine trends and changes in corrupt conduct, and practices and methods relating to corrupt conduct, and report to both Houses of Parliament any change which the Joint Committee thinks desirable to the functions, structures and procedures of the Commission and the Inspector,
- (e) to inquire into any question in connection with its functions which is referred to it by both Houses of Parliament, and report to both Houses on that question.

(2) Nothing in this Part authorises the Joint Committee—

- (a) to investigate a matter relating to particular conduct, or
- (b) to reconsider a decision to investigate, not to investigate or to discontinue investigation of a particular complaint, or
- (c) to reconsider the findings, recommendations, determinations or other decisions of the Commission in relation to a particular investigation or complaint.

#### **64A Power to veto proposed appointment of a Commissioner or the Inspector**

- (1) The Minister is to refer a proposal to appoint a person as a Commissioner or Inspector to the Joint Committee and the Committee is empowered to veto the proposed appointment as provided by this section. The Minister may withdraw a referral at any time.
- (2) The Joint Committee has 14 days after the proposed appointment is referred to it to veto the proposal and has a further 30 days (after the initial 14 days) to veto the proposal if it notifies the Minister within that 14 days that it requires more time to consider the matter.
- (3) The Joint Committee is to notify the Minister, within the time that it has to veto a proposed appointment, whether or not it vetoes it.
- (4) A referral or notification under this section is to be in writing.

#### **65 Membership**

- (1) The Joint Committee shall consist of 11 members, of whom—
  - (a) 3 shall be members of, and appointed by, the Legislative Council, and
  - (b) 8 shall be members of, and appointed by, the Legislative Assembly.
- (2) The appointment of members of the Joint Committee shall, as far as practicable, be in accordance with the practice of Parliament with reference to the appointment of members to serve on joint committees of both Houses of Parliament.

- (3) A person is not eligible for appointment as a member of the Joint Committee if the person is a Minister of the Crown or a Parliamentary Secretary.

## **66 Vacancies**

- (1) A member of the Joint Committee ceases to hold office—
- (a) when the Legislative Assembly is dissolved or expires by the effluxion of time, or
  - (b) if the member becomes a Minister of the Crown or a Parliamentary Secretary, or
  - (c) if the member ceases to be a member of the Legislative Council or Legislative Assembly, or
  - (d) if, being a member of the Legislative Council, the member resigns the office by instrument in writing addressed to the President of the Legislative Council, or
  - (e) if, being a member of the Legislative Assembly, the member resigns the office by instrument in writing addressed to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, or
  - (f) if the member is discharged from office by the House of Parliament to which the member belongs.
- (2) Either House of Parliament may appoint one of its members to fill a vacancy among the members of the Joint Committee appointed by that House.

## **67 Chair and Deputy Chair**

- (1) There shall be a Chair and a Deputy Chair of the Joint Committee, who shall be elected by and from the members of the Joint Committee.
- (2) A member of the Joint Committee ceases to hold office as Chair or Deputy Chair of the Joint Committee if—
- (a) the member ceases to be a member of the Committee, or
  - (b) the member resigns the office by instrument in writing presented to a meeting of the Committee, or
  - (c) the member is discharged from office by the Committee.
- (3) At any time when the Chair is absent from New South Wales or is, for any reason, unable to perform the duties of Chair or there is a vacancy in that office, the Deputy Chair may exercise the functions of the Chair under this Act or under the [Parliamentary Evidence Act 1901](#).

## **68 Procedure**

- (1) The procedure for the calling of meetings of the Joint Committee and for the conduct of business at those meetings shall, subject to this Act, be as determined by the

Committee.

- (2) The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly shall call the first meeting of the Joint Committee in each Parliament in such manner as the Clerk thinks fit.
- (3) At a meeting of the Joint Committee, 6 members constitute a quorum, but the Committee shall meet as a joint committee at all times.
- (4) The Chair or, in the absence of the Chair, the Deputy Chair or, in the absence of both the Chair and the Deputy Chair, a member of the Joint Committee elected to chair the meeting by the members present shall preside at a meeting of the Joint Committee.
- (5) The Deputy Chair or other member presiding at a meeting of the Joint Committee shall, in relation to the meeting, have all the functions of the Chair.
- (6) The Chair, Deputy Chair or other member presiding at a meeting of the Joint Committee shall have a deliberative vote and, in the event of an equality of votes, shall also have a casting vote.
- (7) A question arising at a meeting of the Joint Committee shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the members present and voting.
- (8) The Joint Committee may sit and transact business despite any prorogation of the Houses of Parliament or any adjournment of either House of Parliament.
- (9) The Joint Committee may sit and transact business on a sitting day of a House of Parliament during the time of sitting.

#### **68A Procedure if Parliament not in session**

- (1) If a House of Parliament is not sitting when the Joint Committee seeks to furnish a report to it, the Committee may present copies of the report to the Clerk of the House.
- (2) The report—
  - (a) on presentation and for all purposes is taken to have been laid before the House, and
  - (b) may be printed by authority of the Clerk, and
  - (c) if printed by authority of the Clerk, is for all purposes taken to be a document published by or under the authority of the House, and
  - (d) is to be recorded in the Minutes, or Votes and Proceedings, of the House on the first sitting day of the House after receipt of the report by the Clerk.

#### **69 Evidence**

- (1) The Joint Committee shall have power to send for persons, papers and records.

- (2) Subject to section 70, the Joint Committee shall take all evidence in public.
- (3) Where the Joint Committee as constituted at any time has taken evidence in relation to a matter but the Committee as so constituted has ceased to exist before reporting on the matter, the Committee as constituted at any subsequent time, whether during the same or another Parliament, may consider that evidence as if it had taken the evidence.
- (4) The production of documents to the Joint Committee shall be in accordance with the practice of the Legislative Assembly with respect to the production of documents to select committees of the Legislative Assembly.

## **70 Confidentiality**

- (1) Where any evidence proposed to be given before, or the whole or a part of a document produced or proposed to be produced in evidence to, the Joint Committee relates to a secret or confidential matter, the Committee may, and at the request of the witness giving the evidence or producing the document shall—
  - (a) take the evidence in private, or
  - (b) direct that the document, or the part of the document, be treated as confidential.
- (1A) If any evidence proposed to be given before, or the whole or a part of a document produced or proposed to be produced in evidence to, the Joint Committee relates to the proposed appointment of a person as Commissioner or Inspector, the Committee must (despite any other provision of this section)—
  - (a) take the evidence in private, or
  - (b) direct that the document, or the part of the document, be treated as confidential.
- (1B) Despite any other provision of this section except subsection (6), the Joint Committee must not, and a person (including a member of the Committee) must not, disclose any evidence or the contents of a document or that part of a document to which subsection (1A) applies.

Maximum penalty—20 penalty units or imprisonment for 3 months, or both.

- (1C) Despite any other provision of this section except subsection (6), the Joint Committee (including a member of the Committee) must not, and any person assisting the Committee or present during the deliberations of the Committee must not, except in accordance with section 64A (3), disclose whether or not the Joint Committee or any member of the Joint Committee has vetoed, or proposes to veto, the proposed appointment of a person as Commissioner or Inspector.

Maximum penalty—20 penalty units or imprisonment for 3 months, or both.



- (2) Where a direction under subsection (1) applies to a document or part of a document produced in evidence to the Joint Committee, the contents of the document or part shall, for the purposes of this section, be taken to be evidence given by the person producing the document and taken by the Committee in private.
- (3) Where, at the request of a witness, evidence is taken by the Joint Committee in private—
- (a) the Committee shall not, without the consent in writing of the witness, and
  - (b) a person (including a member of the Committee) shall not, without the consent in writing of the witness and the authority of the Committee under subsection (5), disclose or publish the whole or a part of that evidence.
- Maximum penalty—20 penalty units or imprisonment for 3 months, or both.
- (4) Where evidence is taken by the Joint Committee in private otherwise than at the request of a witness, a person (including a member of the Committee) shall not, without the authority of the Committee under subsection (5), disclose or publish the whole or a part of that evidence.
- Maximum penalty—20 penalty units or imprisonment for 3 months, or both.
- (5) The Joint Committee may, in its discretion, disclose or publish or, by writing under the hand of the Chair, authorise the disclosure or publication of evidence taken in private by the Committee, but this subsection does not operate so as to affect the necessity for the consent of a witness under subsection (3).
- (6) Nothing in this section prohibits—
- (a) the disclosure or publication of evidence that has already been lawfully published, or
  - (b) the disclosure or publication by a person of a matter of which the person has become aware other than by reason, directly or indirectly, of the giving of evidence before the Joint Committee.
- (7) This section has effect despite section 4 of the *Parliamentary Papers (Supplementary Provisions) Act 1975*.
- (8) If evidence taken by the Joint Committee in private is disclosed or published in accordance with this section, sections 5 and 6 of the *Parliamentary Papers (Supplementary Provisions) Act 1975* apply to and in relation to the disclosure or publication as if it were a publication of that evidence under the authority of section 4 of that Act.

**Note—**

The *Defamation Act 2005* makes provision for 2 defences in respect of the publication of defamatory matter

that is contained in evidence taken by, or documents produced to, the Joint Committee in private, but only if the evidence or documents have been disclosed or published in accordance with this section.

Section 28 of the *Defamation Act 2005* (when read with clause 8 of Schedule 2 to that Act) ensures that such documents attract the defence relating to public documents in defamation proceedings.

Section 29 of the *Defamation Act 2005* (when read with clause 17 of Schedule 3 to that Act) ensures that proceedings in which such evidence is taken or documents produced attract the defences relating to fair reports of proceedings of public concern in defamation proceedings.

## 71 Application of certain Acts etc

For the purposes of the *Parliamentary Evidence Act 1901* and the *Parliamentary Papers (Supplementary Provisions) Act 1975* and for any other purposes—

- (a) the Joint Committee shall be taken to be a joint committee of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly, and
- (b) the proposal for the appointment of the Joint Committee shall be taken to have originated in the Legislative Assembly.

## 72 Validity of certain acts or proceedings

Any act or proceeding of the Joint Committee is, even though at the time when the act or proceeding was done, taken or commenced there was—

- (a) a vacancy in the office of a member of the Committee, or
- (b) any defect in the appointment, or any disqualification, of a member of the Committee,

as valid as if the vacancy, defect or disqualification did not exist and the Committee were fully and properly constituted.

# Part 7A Parliamentary ethical standards

## Division 1 Legislative Council

### 72A Definition

In this Division—

**designated committee** means the committee of the Legislative Council that is for the time being designated under section 72B.

### 72B Designation of committee

- (1) As soon as practicable after the commencement of this Division and the commencement of the first session of each Parliament, a committee of the Legislative Council is to be designated by resolution of the Legislative Council as the designated committee for the purposes of this Division.

- (2) Another committee of the Legislative Council may be designated by such a resolution from time to time in place of any previously designated.
- (3) The designation of a committee under this section does not affect the functions that the committee has apart from this Division.

### **72C Functions of committee**

- (1) The functions of the designated committee are—
  - (a) to prepare for consideration by the Legislative Council draft codes of conduct for members of the Legislative Council and draft amendments to codes of conduct already adopted, and
  - (b) to carry out educative work relating to ethical standards applying to members of the Legislative Council, and
  - (c) to give advice in relation to such ethical standards in response to requests for advice by the Legislative Council, but not in relation to actual or alleged conduct of any particular person.
- (2) The designated committee may seek comments from the public in relation to any of its functions under this section.
- (3) Before presenting a draft code of conduct for consideration by the Legislative Council, the designated committee must—
  - (a) give public notice of the place at which, the dates on which, and the times during which, a draft code of conduct may be inspected by the public, and
  - (b) publicly exhibit a copy of the draft code of conduct at the place, on the dates and during the times set out in the notice, and
  - (c) specify, in the notice, the period during which submissions may be made to the committee.
- (4) Any person may, during the period referred to in subsection (3) (c), make submissions in writing to the designated committee with respect to the provisions of the draft code of conduct. The committee must take any such submissions into consideration.
- (5) The designated committee is to review a code of conduct adopted by the Legislative Council at least once every 4 years.
- (6) (Repealed)

## Division 2 Legislative Assembly

### 72D Definition

In this Division—

**designated committee** means the committee of the Legislative Assembly that is for the time being designated under section 72DA.

### 72DA Designation of committee

- (1) As soon as practicable after the commencement of this section and the commencement of the first session of each Parliament, a committee of the Legislative Assembly is to be designated by resolution of the Legislative Assembly as the designated committee for the purposes of this Division.
- (2) Another committee of the Legislative Assembly may be designated by such a resolution from time to time in place of any previously designated.
- (3) The designation of a committee under this section does not affect the functions that the committee has apart from this Division.

### 72E Functions of committee

- (1) The functions of the designated committee are—
  - (a) to prepare for consideration by the Legislative Assembly draft codes of conduct for members of the Legislative Assembly and draft amendments to codes of conduct already adopted, and
  - (b) to carry out educative work relating to ethical standards applying to members of the Legislative Assembly, and
  - (c) to give advice in relation to such ethical standards in response to requests for advice by the Legislative Assembly, but not in relation to actual or alleged conduct of any particular person.
- (1A) The designated committee may appoint any member of the public for the purpose of assisting the committee to carry out any of its functions under this section in relation to a code of conduct.
- (2) The designated committee may seek comments from the public in relation to any of its functions under this section.
- (3) Before presenting a draft code of conduct for consideration by the Legislative Assembly, the designated committee must—
  - (a) give public notice of the place at which, the dates on which, and the times during which, a draft code of conduct may be inspected by the public, and

- (b) publicly exhibit a copy of the draft code of conduct at the place, on the dates and during the times set out in the notice, and
  - (c) specify, in the notice, the period during which submissions may be made to the committee.
- (4) Any person may, during the period referred to in subsection (3) (c), make submissions in writing to the designated committee with respect to the provisions of the draft code of conduct. The committee must take any such submissions into consideration.
- (5) The designated committee is to review a code of conduct adopted by the Legislative Assembly at least once every 4 years.
- (6) (Repealed)

**72F-72K (Repealed)**

**Part 8 References by and reports to Parliament**

**Division 1 References to Commission by, and reports by Commission to, Parliament**

**73 References by Parliament**

- (1) Both Houses of Parliament may, by resolution of each House, refer to the Commission any matter as referred to in section 13.
- (2) It is the duty of the Commission to fully investigate a matter so referred to it for investigation.
- (3) It is the duty of the Commission to comply as fully as possible with any directions contained in a reference of a matter referred to in section 13 (1) (k).
- (4) Both Houses of Parliament may, by resolution of each House, amend or revoke a reference made under this section.

**74 Reports on referred matters etc**

- (1) The Commission may prepare reports in relation to any matter that has been or is the subject of an investigation.
- (2) The Commission shall prepare reports in relation to a matter referred to the Commission by both Houses of Parliament, as directed by those Houses.
- (3) The Commission shall prepare reports in relation to matters as to which the Commission has conducted a public inquiry, unless the Houses of Parliament have given different directions under subsection (2).
- (4) The Commission shall furnish reports prepared under this section to the Presiding

Officer of each House of Parliament.

(5), (6) (Repealed)

(7) A report required under this section shall be furnished as soon as possible after the Commission has concluded its involvement in the matter.

(8) The Commission may defer making a report under this section if it is satisfied that it is desirable to do so in the public interest, except as regards a matter referred to the Commission by both Houses of Parliament.

(9) (Repealed)

#### **74A Content of reports to Parliament**

(1) The Commission is authorised to include in a report under section 74—

(a) statements as to any of its findings, opinions and recommendations, and

(b) statements as to the Commission's reasons for any of its findings, opinions and recommendations.

(2) The report must include, in respect of each "affected" person, a statement as to whether or not in all the circumstances the Commission is of the opinion that consideration should be given to the following—

(a) obtaining the advice of the Director of Public Prosecutions with respect to the prosecution of the person for a specified criminal offence,

(b) the taking of action against the person for a specified disciplinary offence,

(c) the taking of action against the person as a public official on specified grounds, with a view to dismissing, dispensing with the services of or otherwise terminating the services of the public official.

(3) An "affected" person is a person described as such in the reference made by both Houses of Parliament or against whom, in the Commission's opinion, substantial allegations have been made in the course of or in connection with the investigation concerned.

(4) Subsection (2) does not limit the kinds of statement that a report can contain concerning any such "affected" person and does not prevent a report from containing a statement described in that subsection in respect of any other person.

#### **74B Report not to include findings etc of guilt or recommending prosecution**

(1) The Commission is not authorised to include in a report under section 74 a statement as to—

- (a) a finding or opinion that a specified person is guilty of or has committed, is committing or is about to commit a criminal offence or disciplinary offence (whether or not a specified criminal offence or disciplinary offence), or
  - (b) a recommendation that a specified person be, or an opinion that a specified person should be, prosecuted for a criminal offence or disciplinary offence (whether or not a specified criminal offence or disciplinary offence).
- (2) A finding or opinion that a person has engaged, is engaging or is about to engage—
- (a) in corrupt conduct (whether or not specified corrupt conduct), or
  - (b) in specified conduct (being conduct that constitutes or involves or could constitute or involve corrupt conduct),
- is not a finding or opinion that the person is guilty of or has committed, is committing or is about to commit a criminal offence or disciplinary offence.
- (3) In this section and section 74A, **criminal offence** and **disciplinary offence** have the same meanings as in section 9.

**74BA Report may only include findings etc of serious corrupt conduct**

- (1) The Commission is not authorised to include in a report under section 74 a finding or opinion that any conduct of a specified person is corrupt conduct unless the conduct is serious corrupt conduct.
- (2) The Commission is not precluded by this section from including in any such report a finding or opinion about any conduct of a specified person that may be corrupt conduct within the meaning of this Act if the statement as to the finding or opinion does not describe the conduct as corrupt conduct.

**74C Reports relating to local government and planning authorities**

- (1) The Commission is authorised to include in a report under section 74 a recommendation that consideration be given to the making of a proclamation under the [Local Government Act 1993](#) that all civic offices in relation to a local government authority be declared vacant if the Commission is of the opinion that systemic corruption exists within the local government authority.
  - (2) The Commission is authorised to include in a report under section 74 a recommendation that consideration be given to the suspension of a councillor from civic office under the [Local Government Act 1993](#) with a view to his or her dismissal for serious corrupt conduct.
- (2A) The Commission is authorised to include in a report under section 74 a recommendation that consideration be given to the suspension of a councillor from civic office under Division 3 (Misbehaviour) of Part 1 of Chapter 14 of the [Local](#)

*Government Act 1993.*

- (3) The Commission is authorised to include in a report under section 74 a recommendation that consideration be given to the suspension from duty of a member of the staff of a local government authority with a view to the institution of disciplinary or criminal proceedings against the member of staff for serious corrupt conduct.
- (3A) The Commission is authorised to include in a report under section 74 a recommendation that consideration be given to the appointment of a person under section 118 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* to administer functions of a council under that Act because of serious corrupt conduct by any of the councillors in connection with the exercise or purported exercise of those functions.
- (3B) The Commission is authorised to include in a report under section 74 a recommendation that consideration be given to the suspension of a development consent granted by a consent authority under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, or of a modification of such a consent, with a view to its revocation because of serious corrupt conduct by the consent authority or by a councillor or other officer or member of staff of the consent authority in connection with the grant of the consent or modification.
- (3C) The Commission is authorised to include in a report under section 74 a recommendation that consideration be given to the removal from office under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* of a member of the Independent Planning Commission, of a Sydney district or regional planning panel or of a local planning panel because of corrupt conduct by the member.
- (4) The Commission is not to make a recommendation under this section unless the Commission is of the opinion that prompt action is required in the public interest.
- (5) This section does not limit any other recommendation that the Commission is authorised to include in a report under section 74 in relation to a local government authority, councillor or member of staff.
- (6) This section extends to a report in relation to a matter that has been the subject of an investigation conducted before the commencement of this section.

**74D Reports relating to Aboriginal Land Councils**

- (1) The Commission is authorised to include in a report under section 74 a recommendation that consideration be given to—
  - (a) the suspension of a councillor or Board member from office under Division 3A of Part 10 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*, or
  - (b) the taking of action against a member of staff of an Aboriginal Land Council under



that Division.

- (2) The Commission is not to make a recommendation under this section unless the Commission is of the opinion that prompt action is required in the public interest.
- (3) This section does not limit any other recommendation that the Commission is authorised to include in a report under section 74 in relation to a councillor, Board member or member of staff.
- (4) This section extends to a report in relation to a matter that has been the subject of an investigation conducted before the commencement of this section.

**74E Publication of information about time within which investigations and reports on referred matters to be completed**

- (1) The Commission must publish, on a website maintained by the Commission, information (***time standards***) about the time within which reports under section 74 will be prepared and given to the Presiding Officer of each House of Parliament under the section.
- (2) The time standards must include the following—
  - (a) the standard timeframes adopted by the Commission for preparing reports and providing the reports to the Presiding Officer of each House of Parliament under section 74,
  - (b) how the Commission monitors the progress of the preparation of the reports to ensure the reports are dealt with promptly,
  - (c) what action the Commission takes if the standard timeframes for the preparation of a report are not met.
- (3) The Commission must, in each report prepared under section 74—
  - (a) report on the Commission’s performance against the time standards in relation to preparing the report and providing the report to the Presiding Officer of each House of Parliament, and
  - (b) give reasons for any failure to comply with the time standards in relation to the preparation of the report.

**Note—**

The information in this subsection must also be included in the Commission’s annual report under section 76.

**75 Special reports**

The Commission may, at any time, make a special report to the Presiding Officer of each House of Parliament on any administrative or general policy matter relating to the

functions of the Commission.

## **76 Annual reports**

- (1) The Commission shall, within the period of 4 months after each 30 June, prepare a report of its operations during the year ended on that 30 June and furnish the report to the Presiding Officer of each House of Parliament.
- (2) A report by the Commission under this section in relation to a year shall include the following—
  - (a) a description of the matters that were referred to the Commission,
  - (b) a description of the matters investigated by the Commission,
  - (ba) the following details with respect to matters investigated by the Commission—
    - (i) the time interval between the lodging of each complaint and the Commission deciding to investigate the complaint,
    - (ii) the number of complaints commenced to be investigated but not finally dealt with during the year,
    - (iii) the average time taken to deal with complaints and the actual time taken to investigate any matter in respect of which a report is made,
    - (iv) the total number of compulsory examinations and public inquiries conducted during the year,
    - (v) the number of days spent during the year in conducting public inquiries,
    - (vi) the time interval between the completion of each public inquiry conducted during the year and the furnishing of a report on the matter,
  - (bb) for each report prepared under section 74—the information referred to in section 74E(3)(a) and (b),
  - (c) any recommendations for changes in the laws of the State, or for administrative action, that the Commission considers should be made as a result of the exercise of its functions,
  - (d) the general nature and extent of any information furnished under this Act by the Commission during the year to a law enforcement agency,
  - (e) the extent to which its investigations have resulted in prosecutions or disciplinary action in that year,
  - (f) the number of search warrants issued by authorised officers and a Commissioner respectively under this Act in that year,

- (g) a description of its activities during that year in relation to its educating and advising functions.

## **77 Reports relating to authorities**

- (1) The Commission may furnish to the Presiding Officer of each House of Parliament a report setting out a recommendation referred to in section 55 which it is of the opinion should be adopted and the reasons for its opinion.
- (2) Such a report shall not be furnished until after the period of 21 days referred to in section 55 (3) has passed.

## **Division 2 Reports by Inspector**

### **77A Special reports**

The Inspector may, at any time, make a special report to the Presiding Officer of each House of Parliament on—

- (a) any matters affecting the Commission, including, for example, its operational effectiveness or needs, and
- (b) any administrative or general policy matter relating to the functions of the Inspector, and
- (c) any other matter relating to the exercise of a function to audit, deal with or assess any matter under section 57B that the Inspector considers warrants the making, in the public interest, of a special report.

### **77B Annual reports of Inspector**

The Inspector is required to prepare, within the period of 4 months after each 30 June, a report of the Inspector's operations during the year ended on that 30 June and furnish the report to the Presiding Officer of each House of Parliament.

## **Division 3 General**

### **78 Provisions relating to reports**

- (1) A copy of a report furnished to the Presiding Officer of a House of Parliament under this Part shall be laid before that House within 15 sitting days of that House after it is received by the Presiding Officer.
  - (1A) The Inspector may include in a report a recommendation that the report be made public forthwith.
- (2) The Commission may include in a report a recommendation that the report be made public forthwith.

- (3) If a report includes a recommendation by the Commission or the Inspector that the report be made public forthwith, a Presiding Officer of a House of Parliament may make it public whether or not that House is in session and whether or not the report has been laid before that House.
- (4) If such a report is made public by the Presiding Officer of a House of Parliament before it is laid before that House, it attracts the same privileges and immunities as if it had been laid before that House.
- (5) A Presiding Officer need not inquire whether all or any conditions precedent have been satisfied as regards a report purporting to have been made and furnished in accordance with this Act.

## **79 References to Presiding Officers**

- (1) References in this Part to a Presiding Officer are references to the President of the Legislative Council or the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.
- (2) If there is a vacancy in the office of President, the reference to the President shall be taken to be a reference to the Clerk of the Legislative Council.
- (3) If there is a vacancy in the office of Speaker, the reference to the Speaker shall be taken to be a reference to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

## **79A Right of response to reports of Commission or Inspector containing adverse findings**

- (1) The Commission is not authorised to include an adverse finding against a person in a report under section 74 unless—
  - (a) the Commission has first given the person a reasonable opportunity to respond to the proposed adverse finding, and
  - (b) the Commission includes in the report a summary of the substance of the person's response that disputes the adverse finding if the person requests the Commission to do so within the time specified by the Commission.
- (2) The Commission must not include in the report any information in the person's response that would identify any person who is not the subject of an adverse finding, unless the Commission—
  - (a) is satisfied that it is necessary to do so in the public interest, and
  - (b) is satisfied that doing so will not cause unreasonable damage to the reputation, safety or well-being of a person who is not the subject of an adverse finding, and
  - (c) includes in the report a statement that the person identified is not the subject of any adverse finding.
- (3) This section applies to the Inspector in the same way as it applies to the Commission,

and for that purpose a reference in this section to—

- (a) a report under section 74 is a reference to a report under section 57B or this Part, and
- (b) an adverse finding against a person includes a reference to an adverse finding against the Commission or an officer of the Commission.

(4) In this section—

**adverse finding** includes an adverse opinion.

## **Part 8A Protections for persons assisting Commission or Inspector**

### **Division 1 Preliminary**

#### **79B Objects of Part**

The objects of this Part are—

- (a) to adopt protections for the makers of complaints or disclosures of misconduct or wrongdoing that are substantially aligned with the protections available to the makers of public interest disclosures under the [Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022](#), and
- (b) to consolidate the protections available under this Act to persons who assist the Commission or the Inspector.

#### **79C Interpretation**

(1) In this Part—

**civil proceedings** means proceedings instituted under section 79J or 79L.

**corrective action** has the same meaning as in the [Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022](#).

**counselling** includes psychological counselling.

**detriment** has the same meaning as in the [Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022](#).

**detrimental action** has the same meaning as in the [Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022](#).

**detrimental action offence** means an offence against section 79I.

**disclose information** has the same meaning as in the [Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022](#).

**legally privileged communication** has the same meaning as in the [Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022](#).

**limited protected action**—see section 79D(3).

**position** has the same meaning as in the [Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022](#).

**primary agency** means—

- (a) the Commission, or
- (b) the Inspector.

**protected action**—see section 79D(1).

**protected obligation**—see section 79E.

**protected person** means a person who takes protected action.

**public interest disclosure** has the same meaning as in the [Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022](#).

**reasonable management action**—see section 79F(3).

**role** has the same meaning as in the [Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022](#).

**serious wrongdoing** has the same meaning as in the [Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022](#).

- (2) In this Part, a reference to a person assisting a primary agency includes a reference to a person who has assisted, is assisting or proposes to assist the primary agency.

#### **79D Meaning of “protected action” and “limited protected action”**

- (1) In this Part, **protected action** means—
  - (a) complying with or performing a protected obligation, or
  - (b) making a complaint or disclosure of information to a primary agency about—
    - (i) a matter that concerns or may concern corrupt conduct, or
    - (ii) another matter the primary agency may deal with under this Act, or

##### **Example—**

Under section 57B(1)(b), the Inspector may deal with complaints of abuse of power, impropriety and other forms of misconduct on the part of the Commission or officers of the Commission.

- (c) appearing as a witness before a primary agency otherwise than by complying with or performing a protected obligation, or
  - (d) assisting a primary agency in some other way.
- (2) However, the following are not protected action—

- (a) making a public interest disclosure,
- (b) wilfully making a false statement to, or misleading or attempting to mislead, a primary agency or person acting on behalf of a primary agency.

**Note—**

Equivalent protections are available under the [Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022](#) to persons who make public interest disclosures.

- (3) In this Part, **limited protected action** means protected action consisting only of 1 or more of the following—
  - (a) protected action mentioned in subsection (1)(b)(i), if the maker of the complaint or disclosure—
    - (i) is a public official within the meaning of the [Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022](#), and
    - (ii) does not honestly, and on reasonable grounds, believe the complaint or disclosure shows or tends to show corrupt conduct,
  - (b) protected action mentioned in subsection (1)(b)(ii),
  - (c) protected action mentioned in subsection (1)(d).

**79E Meaning of “protected obligation”**

In this Part, **protected obligation** means 1 or more of the following—

- (a) a duty arising under section 11,
- (b) a requirement arising from a notice served on a person under section 21 or 22,
- (c) a requirement arising under section 35 or 57D.

**79F Reasonable management action not prevented**

- (1) This Part does not prevent reasonable management action from being taken in relation to a person.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1)—
  - (a) a person who takes reasonable management action in relation to another person does not commit a detrimental action offence or incur other liability under this Part, and
  - (b) action taken in relation to a person may be reasonable management action—
    - (i) if the person is alleged to have committed a detrimental action offence—whether or not the person has been charged with the offence, and

- (ii) if the person has been convicted of a detrimental action offence—on the ground of the conduct to which the conviction relates and without further investigation of whether the conduct occurred, and
  - (iii) whether or not the action is taken by a manager of the person.
- (3) In this Part, **reasonable management action** taken in relation to a person includes—
- (a) a reasonable appraisal of the person’s work performance, and
  - (b) a reasonable counselling action, whether formal or informal, taken in relation to the person’s employment, and
  - (c) a reasonable suspension of the person from the person’s workplace, and
  - (d) a reasonable decision to investigate serious wrongdoing or other misconduct alleged or suspected to have been committed by the person, and
  - (e) a reasonable disciplinary action, whether formal or informal, taken in relation to the person’s employment, and
  - (f) a reasonable action to transfer, deploy or redeploy the person, and
  - (g) a reasonable action to terminate the person’s employment by redundancy or retrenchment, and
  - (h) a reasonable action to suspend, terminate or review a contract under which the person provides services, and
  - (i) a reasonable action resulting in or relating to the person’s failure to obtain a promotion, reclassification, transfer or benefit, or to keep a benefit, in relation to the person’s employment, and
  - (j) a reasonable action relating to an action mentioned in paragraphs (a)–(i).

**Example—**

The actions specified in the [Government Sector Employment Act 2013](#), section 69(4) and the [Police Act 1990](#), section 173(2) are examples of disciplinary action mentioned in paragraph (e).

- (4) However, action taken in relation to a person is not reasonable management action if—
- (a) the way of taking the action is not reasonable, or
  - (b) the action is taken corruptly or fraudulently, or
  - (c) the action is taken to conceal, or avoid the consequences of, serious wrongdoing, or



(d) each of the following applies to the action—

- (i) the person taking the action, when taking the action, has a suspicion, belief or awareness, whether correct or mistaken, that the person in relation to whom the action is taken or a third person is a protected person,
- (ii) the suspicion, belief or awareness is a contributing factor to the taking of the action,
- (iii) the action is not taken for the purpose of reducing the risk of detrimental action being taken against the person in relation to whom the action is taken or a third person.

### **79G Other provisions not affected**

The provisions of this Part do not affect or limit the operation of section 109(1) or 114A.

## **Division 2 Protections**

### **79H Limitation on protections for limited protected action**

Except for sections 79I, 79L and 79Q, this Division does not apply in relation to a protected person who takes protected action consisting only of limited protected action.

### **79I Detrimental action offence**

- (1) A person must not take detrimental action against another person if—
- (a) the person suspects, believes or is aware, when taking the detrimental action, that the other person or a third person is a protected person, and
  - (b) the suspicion, belief or awareness is a contributing factor to the taking of the detrimental action.

Maximum penalty—200 penalty units or imprisonment for 5 years, or both.

#### **Note—**

It is not a detrimental action offence to take reasonable management action in relation to a person. See section 79F.

- (2) The fact the suspicion or belief was mistaken is not a defence to a prosecution for a detrimental action offence.
- (3) A detrimental action offence is an indictable offence.
- (4) In a prosecution for a detrimental action offence, the accused bears the onus of proving, in relation to detrimental action established by the prosecution to have been taken by the accused—
  - (a) the accused did not have the suspicion, belief or awareness mentioned in

subsection (1)(a), or

(b) if the accused had the suspicion, belief or awareness—the suspicion, belief or awareness was not a contributing factor to the taking of the detrimental action.

(5) It is a defence to a prosecution for a detrimental action offence that the detrimental action constituted appropriate corrective action.

### **79J Detrimental action—recovery of damages**

(1) A person who takes detrimental action against another person is liable in damages under this section for injury, damage or loss suffered as a result by the other person or a third person if—

(a) the person suspects, believes or is aware, when taking the detrimental action, that any person is a protected person, and

(b) the suspicion, belief or awareness is a contributing factor to the taking of the detrimental action.

(2) The damages may be recovered in a court of competent jurisdiction.

(3) The person's liability is not affected by the fact the suspicion or belief was mistaken.

(4) In proceedings under this section, the defendant bears the onus of proving, in relation to detrimental action established by the plaintiff to have been taken by the defendant—

(a) the defendant did not have the suspicion, belief or awareness mentioned in subsection (1)(a), or

(b) if the defendant had the suspicion, belief or awareness—the suspicion, belief or awareness was not a contributing factor to the taking of the detrimental action.

(5) It is a defence in proceedings arising under this section that the detrimental action constituted appropriate corrective action.

(6) Damages recovered under this section may include damages in the nature of exemplary damages.

(7) A person's entitlement to recover damages under this section—

(a) does not affect another right or remedy available to the person as a result of the relevant detrimental action, and

(b) does not constitute redress in relation to dismissal from employment for the purposes of the *Industrial Relations Act 1996*, section 90 or another law.

**Note—**

However, see the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022*, sections 35(7) and 62(5).

(8) To avoid doubt, liability under this section is not liability in tort.

### **79K Employer liability for detrimental action by employee**

A court may make the following additional orders if the court is satisfied damages are recoverable under section 79J in circumstances where the person who took the detrimental action did so in connection with the person's position or role as an employee—

- (a) an order that the person's employer is liable to pay the damages in whole or in part,
- (b) an order that the person and the person's employer are jointly or severally liable to pay the damages.

### **79L Injunctions relating to detrimental action**

(1) The Supreme Court may, on the application of 1 of the following, grant an injunction relating to the commission or possible commission of a detrimental action offence—

- (a) a primary agency,
- (b) with the written approval of the Attorney General—another public authority,
- (c) a protected person,
- (d) another person against whom detrimental action has been or may be taken.

(2) The terms of the injunction may—

- (a) restrain a person from engaging in conduct that would constitute a detrimental action offence, or
- (b) require a person to do an act or thing to remedy conduct that constitutes a detrimental action offence.

(3) An injunction restraining a person from engaging in conduct that would constitute a detrimental action offence may be granted—

- (a) whether or not the person has previously engaged in conduct of that kind, and
- (b) whether or not it appears to the Supreme Court the person intends to continue to engage in conduct of that kind, and
- (c) whether or not there is an imminent danger of substantial damage to another person if the person engages in conduct of that kind.

(4) To avoid doubt, an injunction granted under this section may—

- (a) require a formal apology to be made to a person against whom detrimental action

has been taken, or

- (b) restrain detrimental action comprising an attempt to terminate a person's employment in a particular position or role, or
  - (c) require the reinstatement in the same or a substantially similar position or role of a person against whom detrimental action comprising termination of employment in a particular position or role has been taken.
- (5) An injunction granted in the terms specified in subsection (4)(c) is to be complied with despite an inconsistent provision in another Act or law.
  - (6) An injunction may not be granted under this section to restrain or remedy—
    - (a) appropriate corrective action, or
    - (b) reasonable management action in relation to a person.
  - (7) In an application under this section, a person who takes or proposes to take reasonable management action in relation to a person bears the onus of satisfying the Supreme Court of the reasons for taking, or purpose of, the action.
  - (8) The Supreme Court may grant an interim injunction pending determination of an application under this section.
  - (9) The Supreme Court may not require an undertaking as to damages as a condition of granting the interim injunction.
  - (10) The Supreme Court may discharge or vary an injunction or interim injunction granted under this section.
  - (11) This section does not limit the operation of section 27.

#### **79M Immunity from costs orders**

- (1) A person who institutes civil proceedings is not liable to pay costs incurred by another party to the proceedings unless—
  - (a) the person instituted the proceedings vexatiously or without reasonable cause, or
  - (b) the person's unreasonable act or omission caused the other party to incur the costs.
- (2) The other party bears the onus of satisfying the court of the matters specified in subsection (1).

#### **79N Detrimental action—relationship between criminal and civil proceedings**

A person may institute civil proceedings even if—

- (a) no prosecution has been brought in relation to the relevant detrimental action, or
- (b) the person against whom the civil proceedings are instituted has been acquitted of a detrimental action offence on the same, or substantially the same, facts relied on in the civil proceedings.

**790 Protections from liability**

- (1) Except as provided by this section, a protected person, in relation to protected action taken by the person that is or involves the disclosure of information—
  - (a) does not incur civil liability, including liability for breaching a duty of secrecy or confidentiality or another restriction on disclosure applicable to the person, whether or not imposed by an Act, and
  - (b) does not incur criminal liability, including liability for breaching a law or code of conduct imposing a duty of confidentiality or other restriction in relation to the disclosure of information, and
  - (c) is not liable to disciplinary action.
- (2) This section applies to protected action taken at the request of, or in response to a requirement of, a primary agency only to the extent that the protected action—
  - (a) is relevant to the matter in relation to which the request or requirement is made, or
  - (b) constitutes an independent disclosure showing or tending to show serious wrongdoing.
- (3) This section does not protect a protected person against liability for past conduct of the person that is disclosed by the person while taking protected action.

**Note—**

Section 79P permits a primary agency to recommend to the Attorney General an undertaking be given in the circumstances described in this subsection.

- (4) If a person who is not a public official takes protected action that breaches a privilege arising from a legally privileged communication, this section protects the person from the consequences of the breach only to the extent that—
  - (a) the protected action was taken to comply with or perform a protected obligation, or
  - (b) another provision of this Act protects the person from the consequences of the breach, or
  - (c) the privilege was waived by a person having authority to do so.
- (5) This section does not limit the operation of section 26, 37(3) or 37(5).

(6) In this section—

**public official** has the same meaning as in the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022*.

#### **79P Undertakings**

- (1) The Attorney General may, if in the Attorney General's opinion it is appropriate, give to a protected person who makes, or proposes to make, a disclosure of the person's past conduct while taking protected action an undertaking that the disclosure or the fact of the disclosure will not be used in evidence against the person, other than in proceedings relating to the falsity of the disclosure.
- (2) A primary agency may recommend to the Attorney General a person be given an undertaking.
- (3) If the Attorney General gives an undertaking, the disclosure or the fact of the disclosure, as applicable, is not admissible in evidence against the person in civil or criminal proceedings, other than proceedings relating to the falsity of the disclosure.
- (4) An undertaking may be given conditionally or unconditionally.
- (5) This section does not affect, and applies in addition to, section 49(2).

#### **79Q Identifying information not to be disclosed**

- (1) Information tending to identify a person as a protected person (**identifying information**) is not to be disclosed by a primary agency, a public official or a public authority.
- (2) However, subsection (1) does not prevent the disclosure of the identifying information if—
  - (a) the person consents in writing to the disclosure of the identifying information, or
  - (b) it is generally known the person is a protected person as a result of the person's voluntary self-identification as a protected person, or
  - (c) after consulting the person, the agency, official or authority reasonably considers it necessary to disclose the identifying information to protect a person from detriment, or
  - (d) it is necessary the identifying information be disclosed to a person whose interests are affected by the relevant protected action, or
  - (e) the identifying information has previously been lawfully published, or
  - (f) the identifying information is disclosed to a medical practitioner or psychologist for the purposes of the practitioner or psychologist providing medical or psychiatric care, treatment or counselling to the individual disclosing the information, or

- (g) the identifying information is disclosed for the purposes of proceedings before a court or tribunal, or
  - (h) the identifying information is disclosed in accordance with a direction of a primary agency, if the primary agency certifies it is necessary to disclose the information in the public interest, or
  - (i) the disclosure of the identifying information is necessary to effectively investigate or deal with a complaint or disclosure of information under this Act, or
  - (j) the protected person took the relevant protected action to comply with or perform a protected obligation.
- (3) To avoid doubt, a person does not voluntarily self-identify as a protected person merely by taking the relevant protected action in confidence.
- (4) Other provisions of this Act that require, authorise, restrict or prohibit the disclosure of information prevail over this section to the extent of an inconsistency.

### **Division 3 Additional provisions**

#### **79R Referrals of evidence**

If a primary agency forms the opinion a detrimental action offence has been committed, the primary agency must, by providing a brief of evidence relating to the alleged offence, refer the alleged offence to—

- (a) the Director of Public Prosecutions, or
- (b) if the alleged offence relates to the Director of Public Prosecutions—the Attorney General.

#### **79S Arrangements for protection**

- (1) If it appears to a primary agency that, because a person is a protected person, the safety of the person or another person may be prejudiced, or the person or another person may be subject to intimidation or harassment, the primary agency may make arrangements—
- (a) to protect the safety of the person concerned, or
  - (b) to protect the person concerned from intimidation or harassment.
- (2) The arrangements may include—
- (a) a direction to the Commissioner of Police or to a public authority or public official prescribed by the regulations—
    - (i) to provide protection referred to in subsection (1), or

- (ii) to provide personnel or facilities to assist in providing the protection, or
  - (iii) to otherwise assist in providing the protection, or
- (b) orders applying to a specified person for the purposes of protecting the safety of another person or protecting another person from intimidation or harassment.
- (3) A person or body to whom a direction is given under subsection (2)(a) must comply with the direction as far as is reasonably practicable.
- (4) A person who contravenes an order applying to the person under subsection (2)(b) without reasonable excuse is guilty of an indictable offence.
- Maximum penalty—200 penalty units or imprisonment for 5 years, or both.
- (5) This section does not affect the *Witness Protection Act 1995*.
- (6) In this section, a reference to a protected person includes a reference to a person who—
- (a) has appeared, is appearing or is to appear before a primary agency to give evidence or to produce a document or other thing, or
  - (b) has produced or proposes to produce a document or other thing to a primary agency under this Act, or
  - (c) has assisted, is assisting or is to assist a primary agency in some other way.

#### **79T Additional protections for witnesses**

Subject to this Act, a person summoned to attend or appearing before a primary agency as a witness, or producing a document or other thing to a primary agency, has the same protection as a witness in proceedings in the Supreme Court.

### **Part 9 Certain offences**

#### **80 Obstruction of Commission, Inspector and others**

A person shall not—

- (a) without reasonable excuse, wilfully obstruct, hinder, resist or threaten—
  - (i) the Commission or an officer of the Commission in the exercise of functions under this Act, or
  - (ii) the Inspector or an officer of the Inspector in the exercise of functions under this Act, or
  - (iii) an Australian legal practitioner appointed by the Commission to assist the Commission as counsel in the exercise of functions as such counsel, or



- (iv) an Australian legal practitioner or other person authorised to appear before the Commission in relation to that appearance, or
- (b) without reasonable excuse, refuse or wilfully fail to comply with any lawful requirement of the Commission or an officer of the Commission, or the Inspector or an officer of the Inspector, under this Act, or
- (c) wilfully make any false statement to or mislead, or attempt to mislead, the Commission or an officer of the Commission, or the Inspector or an officer of the Inspector, in the exercise of functions under this Act, or
- (d) disrupt a compulsory examination or public inquiry before the Commission.

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years, or both.

### **81 Complaints about possible corrupt conduct**

A person shall not, in making a complaint under this Act, wilfully make any false statement to or mislead, or attempt to mislead, the Commission or an officer of the Commission.

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years, or both.

### **82 Offences relating to obtaining information**

A person shall not—

- (a) without reasonable excuse, fail to comply with a notice served on the person under section 21, or
- (b) in purported compliance with a notice served on the person or some other person under that section, knowingly furnish information that is false or misleading in a material particular.

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years, or both.

### **83 Offences relating to obtaining documents etc**

A person shall not, without reasonable excuse, refuse or fail to comply with a notice served on the person under section 22.

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years, or both.

### **84 Obstruction of person executing search warrant**

A person shall not, without reasonable excuse, obstruct or hinder a person executing a search warrant.

Maximum penalty—20 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years, or both.

## **85 Compulsory examinations and public inquiries**

A person who is present at a compulsory examination or public inquiry in contravention of section 31A is guilty of an offence.

Maximum penalty—50 penalty units or imprisonment for 12 months, or both.

## **86 Failure to attend etc**

- (1) A person summoned to attend or appearing before the Commission at a compulsory examination or public inquiry shall not, without reasonable excuse, fail—
  - (a) to attend before the Commission in accordance with the summons, or
  - (b) to be sworn or to make an affirmation, or
  - (c) to answer any question relevant to an investigation put to the person by the Commissioner or other person presiding at the compulsory examination or public inquiry, or
  - (d) to produce any document or other thing in the person's custody or control which the person is required by the summons or by the person presiding to produce.

Maximum penalty—20 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years, or both.

- (2) It is a defence to a prosecution for failing without reasonable excuse to produce a document or other thing if the defendant establishes that the document or other thing was not relevant to an investigation.
- (3) A person who without reasonable excuse fails to comply with a condition to which the release of the person under section 36 (6) or 100A is subject, is guilty of an offence.

Maximum penalty—20 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years, or both.

## **87 False and misleading evidence**

- (1) A person who, at a compulsory examination or public inquiry conducted by the Commission, gives evidence that is false or misleading in a material particular knowing it to be false or misleading, or not believing it to be true, is guilty of an indictable offence.

Maximum penalty—200 penalty units or imprisonment for 5 years, or both.

- (2) Sections 331 and 332 of the *Crimes Act 1900* apply to proceedings for an offence against this section in the same way as they apply to proceedings for an offence under section 330 of that Act.

## **88 Offences relating to documents or other things**

- (1) A person who, knowing that any document or other thing is or may be required in

connection with an investigation, wilfully destroys it or renders it incapable of identification or, in the case of a document, renders it illegible, indecipherable or unusable, with intent to prevent it from being used in connection with the investigation, is guilty of an indictable offence.

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years, or both.

(2) A person who, with intent to delay or obstruct the carrying out by the Commission of any investigation—

(a) destroys or alters any document or other thing relating to the subject-matter of the investigation, or

(b) sends or attempts to send, or conspires with any other person to send, out of New South Wales any such document or other thing, or any property of any description belonging to or in the disposition of or under the control of any person whose affairs are the subject-matter of the investigation,

is guilty of an indictable offence.

Maximum penalty—200 penalty units or imprisonment for 5 years, or both.

(3) A person who, with intent to delay or obstruct the carrying out by the Commission of any investigation, or with intent to mislead the Commission, fabricates any document or other thing is guilty of an indictable offence, if the document or other thing is produced in evidence to the Commission or is produced in purported compliance with a requirement under section 21 or 22.

Maximum penalty—200 penalty units or imprisonment for 5 years, or both.

(4) If in any prosecution for an offence against subsection (2) it is proved that the person charged with the offence has destroyed or altered any document or other thing, or has sent or attempted to send, or conspired to send, out of New South Wales any such document or other thing, the onus of proving that in so doing the person had not acted in contravention of this section is on the person.

## **89 Procuring false testimony by witness**

A person who procures or causes or attempts or conspires to procure or cause—

(a) the giving of false testimony at a compulsory examination or public inquiry before the Commission, or

(b) in purported compliance with a notice served on any person under section 21, the furnishing of information that is, to the knowledge of the person so served, false or misleading in a material particular,

is guilty of an indictable offence.

Maximum penalty—200 penalty units or imprisonment for 5 years, or both.

### **90 Bribery of witness**

A person who—

- (a) gives, confers or procures, or promises to give or confer, or to procure or attempt to procure, any property or benefit of any kind to, on or for any person, on any agreement or understanding that any person called or to be called as a witness before the Commission will give false testimony or withhold true testimony, or
- (b) attempts by any means to induce a person called or to be called before the Commission to give false testimony, or to withhold true testimony, or
- (c) asks, receives or obtains, or agrees or attempts to receive or obtain, any property or benefit of any kind for himself or herself, or for any other person, on any agreement or understanding that any person will as a witness before the Commission give false testimony or withhold true testimony,

is guilty of an indictable offence.

Maximum penalty—200 penalty units or imprisonment for 5 years, or both.

### **91 Fraud on witness**

A person who practises any fraud or deceit on, or knowingly makes or exhibits any false statement, representation or writing to, any person—

- (a) called or to be called as a witness before the Commission with intent to affect the testimony of that person as a witness, or
- (b) required to comply with a notice under section 21 or 22 with intent to affect that person's compliance with the notice,

is guilty of an indictable offence.

Maximum penalty—200 penalty units or imprisonment for 5 years, or both.

### **92 Preventing witness from attending**

- (1) A person who wilfully prevents or wilfully endeavours to prevent any person who has been summoned to attend as a witness before the Commission from attending as a witness or from producing anything in evidence pursuant to a summons to attend is guilty of an indictable offence.

Maximum penalty—200 penalty units or imprisonment for 5 years, or both.

- (2) A person who wilfully prevents or wilfully endeavours to prevent any person from complying with a requirement under section 21 or 22 is guilty of an indictable offence.

Maximum penalty—200 penalty units or imprisonment for 5 years, or both.

- (3) A reference in subsection (1) to a person who has been summoned to attend as a witness before the Commission includes a reference to a person who is in detention under a warrant under section 36 (6) or who, having been released under that subsection on condition that the person appear and report himself or herself before the Commission, is still subject to that condition.

**93, 94 (Repealed)**

**95 Impersonation of officer of Commission**

- (1) A person shall not directly or indirectly represent that he or she is an officer of the Commission (whether generally or of a particular class of officer), unless the person is such an officer (or of that class).

Maximum penalty—50 penalty units or imprisonment for 12 months, or both.

- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), a person represents that a state of affairs exists if the person does or says anything, or causes, permits or suffers anything to be done or said, whereby it is represented, or whereby a belief may be induced, that the state of affairs exists.

**96 Bribery of officer of Commission**

- (1) An officer of the Commission shall not corruptly ask for, receive or obtain, or agree to receive or obtain, any money, property or benefit of any kind for himself or herself, or for another person—
- (a) to forgo or neglect his or her duty, or influence him or her, in the exercise of his or her functions as an officer of the Commission, or
  - (b) on account of anything already done or omitted to be done, or to be afterwards done or omitted to be done, by him or her in the exercise of those functions, or
  - (c) to use, or take advantage of, his or her position as an officer of the Commission in order improperly to gain a benefit or advantage for, or facilitate the commission of an offence by, another person.

Maximum penalty—200 penalty units or imprisonment for 7 years, or both.

- (2) A person shall not corruptly give to, confer upon, or procure for, or promise or offer to give to, confer upon, or procure for, or attempt to procure for, an officer of the Commission, or for any other person, any money, property or benefit of any kind—
- (a) for the person who has those functions to forgo or neglect his or her duty, or to influence him or her in the exercise of his or her functions as an officer of the Commission, or

- (b) on account of anything already done, or omitted to be done, by him or her in the exercise of those functions, or
- (c) for the officer of the Commission to use or take advantage of his or her position as such an officer in order improperly to gain a benefit or advantage for, or facilitate the commission of an offence by, the person first referred to in this subsection.

Maximum penalty—200 penalty units or imprisonment for 7 years, or both.

- (3) An offence under this section is an indictable offence.

## **Part 10 Contempt of Commission**

### **97 Definition**

In this Part—

**offender** means a person guilty or alleged to be guilty of contempt of the Commission.

### **98 Contempt in the face or hearing of the Commission**

A person who—

- (a) having been served with a summons to attend before the Commission as a witness, fails to attend in obedience to the summons, or
- (aa) having been released under section 36 (6) on condition (under section 36A (1) (a)) that the person appear and report himself or herself before the Commission, fails so to appear and report, or
- (b) having been served with a summons to attend before the Commission, fails to produce any document or other thing in the person's custody or control that the person is required by the summons to produce, or
- (c) being called or examined as a witness before the Commission, refuses to be sworn or to make an affirmation or refuses or otherwise fails to answer any question put to the person by a Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner, or
- (d) wilfully threatens or insults—
  - (i) a Commissioner, an Assistant Commissioner or an officer of the Commission, or
  - (ii) an Australian legal practitioner appointed to assist the Commission as counsel, or
  - (iii) any witness or person summoned to attend before the Commission, or
  - (iv) an Australian legal practitioner or other person authorised to appear before the Commission,

in proceedings before the Commission, or

- (e) misbehaves himself or herself before the Commission, or
  - (f) interrupts or obstructs any proceedings before the Commission,
  - (g)-(i) (Repealed)
- is guilty of contempt of the Commission.

### **99 Punishment of contempt**

- (1) Any contempt of the Commission under section 98 may be punished in accordance with this section.
- (2) A Commissioner may present to the Supreme Court a certificate (in this Part called a **contempt of the Commission certificate**) in which the Commissioner sets out the facts that constitute the alleged contempt.
- (3) If a Commissioner presents a contempt of the Commission certificate to the Supreme Court—
  - (a) the Supreme Court shall thereupon inquire into the alleged contempt, and
  - (b) after hearing any witnesses who may be produced against or on behalf of the person charged with the contempt, and after hearing any statement that may be offered in defence, the Supreme Court (if satisfied that the person is guilty of the contempt) may punish or take steps for the punishment of the person in like manner and to the like extent as if the person had committed that contempt in or in relation to proceedings in the Supreme Court, and
  - (c) the provisions of the *Supreme Court Act 1970* and the rules of court of the Supreme Court shall, with any necessary adaptations, apply and extend accordingly.
- (4) Such a certificate is prima facie evidence of the matters certified.
- (5) Neither liability to be punished nor punishment under this section for contempt referred to in section 98 (a) or (aa) excuses the offender from attending before the Commission in obedience to the summons, and a Commissioner may enforce attendance by warrant.
- (6) A person is not liable to be punished under this section where the person establishes that there was a reasonable excuse for the act or omission concerned.

### **100 General provisions regarding contempt**

- (1) In the case of any alleged contempt of the Commission, a Commissioner may summon the offender to appear before the Commission at a time and place named in the summons to show cause why the offender should not be dealt with under section 99 for the contempt.

- (1A) The summons is to set out the details of the alleged contempt.
- (2) If the offender fails to attend before the Commission in obedience to the summons, and no reasonable excuse to the satisfaction of the Commissioner is offered for the failure, the Commissioner may, on proof of the service of the summons, issue a warrant to arrest the offender and bring the offender before the Commissioner to show cause why the offender should not be dealt with under section 99 for the contempt.
- (3) No summons need be issued against an offender committing a contempt in the face or hearing of the Commission, but the offender may, after being advised of the details of the alleged contempt, be taken into custody in a prison or elsewhere then and there by a member of the NSW Police Force and called upon to show cause why the offender should not be dealt with under section 99 for the contempt.
- (4) A Commissioner may issue a warrant to arrest the offender while the offender (whether or not already in custody under this section) is before the Commission and to bring the offender forthwith before the Supreme Court.
- (5) The warrant is sufficient authority to detain the offender in a prison or elsewhere, pending the offender's being brought before the Supreme Court.
- (6) The warrant is to be accompanied by the contempt of the Commission certificate in which the Commissioner sets out the facts that constitute the alleged contempt.
- (7) A Commissioner may revoke the warrant at any time before the offender is brought before the Supreme Court.
- (8) When the offender is brought before the Supreme Court, the Court may, pending determination of the matter, direct that the offender be kept in such custody as the Court may determine or direct that the offender be released.

**100A Conditional release of offender**

- (1) A Commissioner may by order release an offender detained under section 100 at any time before the offender is brought before the Supreme Court.
- (2) The release must be subject to the condition that the offender appear before the Supreme Court.
- (3) The release may (but need not) be made subject to—
  - (a) one or more conditions for the purpose of ensuring the appearance of the offender before the Supreme Court (for example the provision of sureties by the offender, the surrender of any passport held by the offender, a requirement as to where the offender is to live and regular reporting by the offender to the Commission), and
  - (b) any other conditions.



- (4) From time to time, a Commissioner may by order amend, revoke or add to those conditions.

### **100B Review by Supreme Court**

- (1) An offender who has not been released by a Commissioner under section 100A or whose release under that section is subject to one or more conditions may apply to the Supreme Court for a review of the decision not to release or failure to release the offender or of the terms of one or more of those conditions.
- (2) The Supreme Court may affirm or set aside a decision by a Commissioner not to release the offender or any condition imposed by a Commissioner on the release of the offender. The Supreme Court may also or instead make any order that a Commissioner may make in relation to the detention or release of the offender. The Court may do so also where a Commissioner has not made any decision within a reasonable time on the release of the offender.
- (3) Such an order is taken to be an order of a Commissioner.

### **101 Act or omission that is both an offence and contempt**

- (1) An act or omission may be punished as a contempt of the Commission even though it could be punished as an offence.
- (2) An act or omission may be punished as an offence even though it could be punished as a contempt of the Commission.
- (3) If an act or omission constitutes both an offence and a contempt of the Commission, the offender is not liable to be punished twice.

## **Part 10A Special powers**

### **101A Definitions**

In this Part—

**Commission investigator** means an officer of the Commission who is designated by the Chief Commissioner as an investigator and who is issued by the Chief Commissioner with means of identification as such an investigator.

**Commission surveillance officer** means an officer of the Commission who is designated by the Chief Commissioner as a surveillance officer and who is issued by the Chief Commissioner with means of identification as such an officer.

**seconded police officer** means—

- (a) a member of the Australian Federal Police, or
- (b) a member of the Police Force of another State or Territory, or

(c) a member of the Police Force of any country prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this Part,

who is seconded or otherwise engaged to assist the Commission.

**101B Commission investigator who is seconded police officer to have all powers of NSW police officer**

- (1) A Commission investigator who is a seconded police officer has and may exercise all the functions (including powers, immunities, liabilities and responsibilities) that a police officer of the rank of constable duly appointed under the *Police Act 1990* has and may exercise under any law of the State (including the common law and this Act).
- (2) Those functions extend to functions conferred after the commencement of this Part.
- (3) A Commission investigator has and may exercise those functions by virtue of this section only when acting in the person's capacity as an officer of the Commission.
- (4) This section does not operate to subject a Commission investigator to the control and direction of the Commissioner of Police or any other police officer when acting in the person's capacity as an officer of the Commission.
- (5) A complaint about the conduct of a Commission investigator when exercising the functions of a police officer may not be made under Part 8A of the *Police Act 1990*, but may be made to the Inspector.

**Part 11 Miscellaneous**

**102 Act binds Crown**

This Act binds the Crown.

**103 (Repealed)**

**104 Appointment of Chief Executive Officer and other staff**

- (1) The Chief Commissioner may appoint a Chief Executive Officer and such other staff of the Commission as may be necessary to enable the Commission to exercise its functions.
- (1A) The Chief Commissioner is to consult the other Commissioners about the proposed appointment of a Chief Executive Officer.
- (2) Those persons are taken to be employed by the Government of New South Wales in the service of the Crown, except as provided by subsection (9).
- (3) Each person who is appointed as a member of staff of the Commission under this section—

- (a) continues, subject to the provisions of this section and the terms of the person's appointment, to be employed as a member of staff at the discretion of the Chief Commissioner, and
  - (b) is, in the person's capacity as such a member, subject to the control and direction of the Commissioners.
- (4) (Repealed)
- (5) The Chief Executive Officer is to be appointed for a term not exceeding 7 years, but is eligible for re-appointment.
- (6) The Chief Commissioner may fix the salaries, wages, allowances and conditions of employment of the staff employed under this section in so far as they are not fixed by or under another Act or law.
- (7) The Chief Commissioner may enter into an agreement with any association or organisation representing a group or class of staff employed under this section with respect to industrial matters. Any such agreement binds all persons in the class or group affected by the agreement, and no such person (whether a member of the association or organisation with which the agreement was entered into or not) has any right of appeal against the terms of the agreement.
- (8) An agreement under subsection (7) is not an enterprise agreement within the meaning of the *Industrial Relations Act 1996*. However, the Chief Commissioner may enter into such an enterprise agreement as the employer of the members of staff concerned.
- (9) The Chief Commissioner is, for the purposes of any proceedings relating to staff employed under this section held before a competent tribunal having jurisdiction to deal with such matters, taken to be the employer of the staff.
- (10) An appeal does not lie to the Industrial Relations Commission concerning a promotional or disciplinary matter affecting any staff employed under this section.
- (11) None of the following matters, and no matter, question or dispute relating to any of the following matters, is an industrial matter for the purposes of the *Industrial Relations Act 1996*—
  - (a) the appointment of, or failure to appoint, a person to any position as a member of staff of the Commission,
  - (b) the removal, retirement, termination of employment or other cessation of office of a person in any such position,
  - (c) any disciplinary proceedings or disciplinary action taken against a person employed under this section.

(11A) Without limiting subsection (11), Part 6 of Chapter 2 of the *Industrial Relations Act 1996* does not apply to or in respect of the dismissal (within the meaning of that Part) of any person from any position as a member of the staff of the Commission.

(12) Schedule 3 has effect with respect to the rights of staff employed under this section.

**Note—**

Section 5 of the *Government Sector Employment Act 2013* excludes the application of that Act to the staff of the Commission.

**104A Arrangements for use of services of other staff**

(1) The Commission may—

(a) with the approval of the Minister responsible for the department or authority concerned, and

(b) on such terms and conditions as may be approved by the Minister administering this Act,

arrange for the use (by secondment or otherwise) of the services of any staff or facilities of a government department or public authority.

(2) The Commission may—

(a) with the approval of the Minister for Police after that Minister has consulted the Commissioner of Police, and

(b) on such terms and conditions as may be approved by the Minister administering this Act,

arrange for one or more police officers to be made available (by way of secondment or otherwise) to perform services for the Commission.

(3) (Repealed)

(4) Members of the staff of the Commission referred to in this section are under the control and direction of the Commissioners in their capacity as such members.

(5) The Commission may terminate an arrangement under subsection (1) or (2) at any time, and no appeal or other proceedings may be brought, in respect of the termination, by or on behalf of the person concerned.

(6) After the termination of such an arrangement respecting a former member of the staff of the Commission—

(a) disciplinary proceedings or disciplinary action may, in accordance with the procedures applicable to his or her principal employment, be taken against the former member in connection with any act or omission committed while a member

of that staff, and

- (b) any such act or omission shall, for the purposes of paragraph (a), be taken to have been committed by the former member in the course of or during his or her principal employment, and
- (c) no court or tribunal may make an order reinstating or having the effect of reinstating the former member as a member of the staff of the Commission.

**Note—**

Section 5 of the *Government Sector Employment Act 2013* excludes the application of that Act to the staff of the Commission.

**104B Commission may engage consultants**

The Commission may engage any suitably qualified person to provide the Commission with services, information or advice.

**104C Vetting of prospective staff or consultants**

- (1) Vetting information that is held by the Inspector or Commission or obtained under this section may be used in determining whether to appoint a person (an **applicant**) as an officer of the Inspector or the Commission.
- (2) For the purposes of this section, **vetting information** is information of the following kind about an applicant, or about an associate or relative of an applicant—
  - (a) any criminal intelligence report or other criminal information,
  - (b) information held in the Births, Deaths and Marriages Register,
  - (c) information held by Transport for NSW relating to licences or other authorities, offences or penalties,
  - (d) information held by Corrective Services NSW, Department of Attorney General and Justice,
  - (e) information held by the Australian Crime Commission,
  - (f) information held by a law enforcement agency,
  - (g) information held by an agency of the Commonwealth or of the State or another State or Territory investigating public sector corruption,
  - (h) information held by an agency of a jurisdiction outside Australia, being an agency responsible for the enforcement of laws of that jurisdiction,
  - (i) information prescribed by the regulations that is held by a public authority or held by a Government agency of another jurisdiction (whether in or outside Australia).

- (3) The Inspector or Commission may, with the consent of an applicant, request a public authority or other person or body to disclose vetting information about the applicant.
- (4) The Inspector or Commission may also, without consent, request a public authority or other person or body (not being an agency of a jurisdiction outside Australia) to disclose vetting information about associates or relatives of the applicant.
- (5) The Inspector or Commission must notify an applicant that the Inspector or Commission has the power under this section to request a public authority or other person or body (not being an agency of a jurisdiction outside Australia) to disclose vetting information about associates or relatives of the applicant. The notice must be given when the consent of the applicant is sought under subsection (3) or, if consent has not been sought for the purposes of that subsection, before the first request for information about associates or relatives of the applicant is made under this section.
- (6) A public authority that holds, or is responsible for the disclosure of, vetting information is authorised to disclose the information to the Inspector or Commission for the purposes of this section.
- (7) The Commissioner of Police is authorised at any time to disclose (or arrange for a member of the NSW Police Force to disclose) to the Inspector or Commission information about the criminal history of a person for the purposes of this section, including the following—
  - (a) information relating to spent convictions, despite anything to the contrary in the *Criminal Records Act 1991*,
  - (b) information relating to criminal charges, whether or not heard, proven, dismissed, withdrawn or discharged,
  - (c) information relating to offences, despite anything to the contrary in section 579 of the *Crimes Act 1900*.
- (8) For the purposes of the collection, disclosure or use of vetting information under this section or section 104D, the information may be collected, disclosed or used despite any other Act or law.

**Note—**

Section 111 makes it an offence for an officer or former officer of the Inspector or Commission to disclose information obtained in the exercise of functions under this Act.

- (9) This section does not restrict or prevent—
  - (a) the Inspector or Commission or any other person from collecting, disclosing or using any information that the Inspector, Commission or other person may otherwise lawfully collect, disclose or use, or
  - (b) the Inspector or Commission from considering information other than vetting

information in determining whether or not to appoint an applicant as an officer of the Inspector or Commission.

(10) In this section and section 104D—

**appoint** includes engage, make use of the services of and second.

**law enforcement agency** means the following—

- (a) the NSW Police Force,
- (b) a Police Force of another State or Territory,
- (c) the Australian Federal Police,
- (d) any other authority or person responsible for the enforcement of the laws of the Commonwealth or of the State or another State or Territory.

**officer of the Inspector** includes a person engaged by the Inspector under section 57E (3).

#### **104D Safeguards relating to use of vetting information**

- (1) The relevant body for a record must, for the period of 2 years commencing on the commencement of this section (the **review period**), keep a record of each occasion when vetting information about an associate or a relative of an applicant is considered under section 104C.
- (2) The relevant body is to record whether vetting information was the basis (wholly or partly) of a decision not to appoint the applicant and the information relied on for that purpose.
- (3) A person appointed by the Attorney General is to review the records kept under this section at the end of the review period.
- (4) The person appointed must be a person who is—
  - (a) a former Judge of the Supreme Court of the State or of any other State or Territory, a former Judge of the Federal Court of Australia or a former Justice of the High Court of Australia, or
  - (b) a person qualified to be appointed as (but who is not) a Judge or Justice of any such court.
- (5) The relevant body may, at the request of the person conducting the review, make available any records kept by the body under this section and any further information requested by the person that is reasonably related to the review.
- (6) The person conducting the review must, not later than 6 months after the end of the

review period, report on the records to the Minister and the Attorney General and provide a copy of the report to the relevant body.

- (7) A report may contain recommendations relating to the collection, use and disclosure of vetting information under section 104C and related procedures or practices of the relevant body.
- (8) The **relevant body** for a record relating to the use of information about an associate or a relative of an applicant for appointment in a position—
  - (a) as an officer of the Inspector—is the Inspector, or
  - (b) as an officer of the Commission—is the Commission.

### **105 Powers of seconded police**

While a member of the NSW Police Force is a member of the staff of the Commission, the member may continue to act as a constable.

### **106 Counsel assisting Commission**

The Chief Commissioner may appoint an Australian legal practitioner to assist the Commission as counsel, either generally or in relation to a particular matter or matters.

### **107 Delegation**

- (1) The Chief Commissioner may delegate any function of the Commission to an Assistant Commissioner or an officer of the Commission.
- (2) A Commissioner may delegate any of his or her functions to an Assistant Commissioner or an officer of the Commission (other than the authorisation of a decision of the Commission under section 6 (2) or the issue of guidelines under section 31B).
- (3) An Assistant Commissioner or officer of the Commission may delegate to an officer of the Commission any of the functions delegated to the Assistant Commissioner or officer, subject to any conditions to which the delegation is subject.
- (4) The following functions may not be delegated—
  - (a) a power of delegation conferred by this section,
  - (b) a function of making a report under this Act,
  - (c) the power of a Commissioner to issue a warrant for the arrest of a person under section 36 or 100,
  - (d) the power of a Commissioner to issue search warrants under section 40,
  - (e) the power of a Commissioner to certify as referred to in section 111 (4) (c).



- (5) The following functions may be delegated only to an Assistant Commissioner—
- (a) the power to require a public authority or public official to produce a statement of information under section 21,
  - (b) the power to require a person to attend and produce a document or other thing under section 22,
  - (c) the power to authorise an officer of the Commission to enter premises under section 23,
  - (d) the making of an application for an injunction under section 27,
  - (e) the powers of the Commission or a Commissioner under Division 3 of Part 4 at or in connection with a compulsory examination or public inquiry, except the power to issue a warrant for the arrest of a person under section 36,
  - (f) the powers of a Commissioner under Part 10 at or in connection with a hearing.
- (6) The functions referred to in subsection (4) may however be delegated to an Assistant Commissioner (and to an Assistant Commissioner only) if the Chief Commissioner is of the opinion that there would or might be a conflict of interest or that it would be in the interests of justice to do so.
- (7) No person shall be concerned to inquire whether circumstances exist warranting a delegation under subsection (6), and a statement in the instrument of delegation of the Chief Commissioner's opinion referred to in that subsection is sufficient.

### **108 Service of documents**

For the purposes of this Act, service of a document on a person may be effected—

- (a) on a natural person—
  - (i) by delivering it to the person personally, or
  - (ii) by leaving it at, or by sending it by pre-paid post to, the residential or business address of the person last known to the person serving the document, or
- (b) on a body corporate—by leaving it at, or by sending it by pre-paid post to, the head office, a registered office or a principal office of the body corporate,

or in any other way in which service could have been effected had this section not been enacted.

### **109 Protection from liability**

- (1) No matter or thing done by the Commission, a Commissioner, the Inspector or any person acting under the direction of the Commission, a Commissioner or the Inspector

shall, if the matter or thing was done in good faith for the purpose of executing this or any other Act, subject a Commissioner, the Inspector or a person so acting personally to any action, liability, claim or demand.

- (2) (Repealed)
- (3) An Australian legal practitioner assisting the Commission or representing a person before the Commission has the same protection and immunity as a barrister (within the meaning of the *Legal Profession Uniform Law (NSW)*) has in appearing for a party in proceedings in the Supreme Court.
- (4) (Repealed)
- (5) No criminal or civil liability (apart from this Act) attaches to any person for compliance, or purported compliance in good faith, with any requirement made under this Act.
- (6) (Repealed)

#### **110 Disclosure of pecuniary interests and other matters**

The regulations may make provision for or with respect to—

- (a) the disclosure by officers of the Commission of all or any of the following pecuniary interests or other matters—
  - (i) real or personal property,
  - (ii) income,
  - (iii) gifts,
  - (iv) financial or other contributions to any travel,
  - (v) shareholdings or other beneficial interests in corporations,
  - (vi) partnerships,
  - (vii) trusts,
  - (viii) positions (whether remunerated or not) held in, or membership of, corporations, trade unions, professional associations or other organisations or associations,
  - (ix) occupations, trades, professions or vocations,
  - (x) debts,
  - (xi) payments of money or transfers of property to relatives or other persons by, or under arrangements made by, officers of the Commission,

- (xii) any other direct or indirect benefits, advantages or liabilities, whether pecuniary or not, of a kind specified in the regulations, and
- (b) prescribing the manner in which, and the times at which, pecuniary interests or other matters shall be disclosed and providing for the verification by statutory declaration or otherwise of any such disclosure, and
- (c) the compilation and maintenance of registers of pecuniary interests or other matters by officers of the Commission and the inspection and publication of any such register.

### **111 Secrecy**

(1) This section applies to—

- (a) a person who is or was an officer of the Commission, and
- (b) a person who is or was an Australian legal practitioner appointed to assist the Commission or who is or was a person who assists, or performs services for or on behalf of, such an Australian legal practitioner in the exercise of the Australian legal practitioner's functions as counsel to the Commission, and
- (c) a person who conducts a review under section 104D, but only in relation to the person's functions under that section, and
- (d) a person or body referred to in section 14 (3), 16 (4) or 53 (6), and
- (e) a person who is or was an officer of the Inspector.

(2) A person to whom this section applies shall not, directly or indirectly, except for the purposes of this Act or otherwise in connection with the exercise of the person's functions under this Act—

- (a) make a record of any information, or
- (b) divulge or communicate to any person any information,

being information acquired by the person by reason of, or in the course of, the exercise of the person's functions under this Act.

Maximum penalty—50 penalty units or imprisonment for 12 months, or both.

(3) A person to whom this section applies shall not be required—

- (a) to produce in any court any document or other thing that has come into the person's possession, custody or control by reason of, or in the course of, the exercise of the person's functions under this Act, or
- (b) to divulge or communicate to any court any matter or thing that has come to the person's notice in the exercise of the person's functions under this Act,

except for the purposes of a prosecution or disciplinary proceedings instituted as a result of an investigation conducted by the Commission in the exercise of its functions.

- (4) Despite this section, a person to whom this section applies may divulge any such information—
- (a) for the purposes of and in accordance with this Act, or
    - (a1) if the disclosure is of identifying information and is made for a reason mentioned in section 79Q(2), or
    - (b) for the purposes of a prosecution or disciplinary proceedings instituted as a result of an investigation conducted by the Commission in the exercise of its functions, or
    - (c) in accordance with a direction of a Commissioner or Inspector, if a Commissioner or Inspector certifies that it is necessary to do so in the public interest, or
    - (d) to any prescribed authority or person, or
    - (e) if the disclosure is made to a medical practitioner or psychologist in relation to the provision by that health practitioner of medical or psychiatric care, treatment or counselling (including but not limited to psychological counselling) to a person to whom this section applies.
- (4A) A direction under subsection (4)(c) may specify—
- (a) that the authority or person to whom information is divulged, or a person or employee under the control of the authority or person, may—
    - (i) make a record of the information, or
    - (ii) divulge or communicate the information to another person, and
  - (b) conditions or restrictions that apply to the making of the record or divulging or communicating of the information.
- (5) An authority or person to whom information is divulged under subsection (4), and any person or employee under the control of that authority or person, shall, in respect of that information, be subject to the same rights, privileges, obligations and liabilities under subsections (2) and (3) as if he or she were a person to whom this section applies and had acquired the information in the exercise of functions under this Act.
- (5A) Subsection (5) does not apply in relation to an authority or person to whom information is divulged under subsection (4)(c), or a person or employee under the control of the authority or person, to the extent the authority, person or employee is acting in accordance with the direction under that paragraph, including any conditions or restrictions to which the direction is subject.

(6) In this section—

**court** includes any tribunal, authority or person having power to require the production of documents or the answering of questions.

**identifying information** has the same meaning as in section 79Q.

**produce** includes permit access to.

#### **111A Secrecy provisions in other Acts**

The following provisions do not apply to the divulging of information, or the production of any document or other thing, pursuant to a requirement made by or under this Act—

- (a) section 15 (Secrecy) of the *Companies (Administration) Act 1981*.
- (b) (Repealed)

#### **111B Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998**

Section 67 of the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* does not apply to the disclosure of information for the purposes of any proceedings for an offence under this Act.

#### **111C Relationship with Ombudsman regarding conduct of Commission and Inspector**

Conduct of a Commissioner or an officer or former officer of the Commission cannot be made the subject of a complaint, inquiry, investigation or other action under the *Ombudsman Act 1974*, except in relation to matters referred to the Ombudsman by the Inspector.

#### **111D Complaints by public officials**

- (1) A public official may complain to the Inspector about conduct of the Commission, an officer or former officer of the Commission or an officer of the Inspector.

**Note—**

Protections may be available under the following provisions to public officials who make a complaint under this section—

- (a) the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022*, Part 3—if the complaint is a public interest disclosure,
- (b) Part 8A—if the making of the complaint is protected action within the meaning of the Part.

- (2) In this section—

**conduct** includes an act or omission.

**public official** has the same meaning as in the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022*.

#### **111E Relevant public authority or official response to corruption prevention**

### **recommendations of Commission**

- (1) As soon as practicable after making a recommendation under section 13 (3) (b) for a specified relevant public authority or official to take action to reduce the likelihood of corrupt conduct occurring, the Commission must give a copy of the recommendation to—
  - (a) the relevant public authority or official, and
  - (b) for a relevant public authority or official that is a public authority—the Minister for the authority.
- (2) The relevant public authority or official must inform the Commission in writing within 3 months (or such longer period as the Commission may agree to in writing) after receiving the recommendation, whether it proposes to implement any plan of action in response to the recommendation and, if so, of the plan of action.
- (3) A relevant public authority or official that informs the Commission of such a plan must provide a written report to the Commission of any progress in implementing the plan—
  - (a) 12 months after informing the Commission of the plan, and
  - (b) if the plan is not then fully implemented, 12 months after that.
- (4) In this section—

***relevant public authority or official*** means the following—

- (a) a public authority,
- (b) a Minister of the Crown.

### **111F Parliamentary office holder**

- (1) As soon as practicable after making a recommendation under section 13(3)(b) for a House, or both Houses, of Parliament to take action to reduce the likelihood of corrupt conduct occurring, the Commission must give a copy of the recommendation to—
  - (a) for a recommendation for a House of Parliament to take action—the Presiding Officer of that House, or
  - (b) for a recommendation for both Houses of Parliament to take action—the Presiding Officer of each House.
- (2) A Presiding Officer who receives a copy of a recommendation under subsection (1) must—
  - (a) as soon as practicable after receiving the recommendation, inform the relevant House of Parliament that the recommendation has been received, and

- (b) inform the relevant House of Parliament of the Presiding Officer's response to the recommendation, including the response to any matter for which the Presiding Officer has responsibility under an Act or an instrument made under an Act.
- (3) If a House of Parliament is, or both Houses of Parliament are, informed under subsection (2) of the receipt of a copy of a recommendation, either or both Houses may refer the recommendation to a relevant parliamentary committee.
- (4) A relevant parliamentary committee to which a recommendation is referred must report to the House or Houses that made the referral.
- (5) In this section—

**relevant parliamentary committee** means a committee of a House of Parliament designated by a resolution or referral by the House for this section.

**relevant House of Parliament**, in relation to a Presiding Officer of a House of Parliament, means the House in which the Presiding Officer sits.

## **112 Restriction on publication of evidence**

- (1) The Commission may direct that—
  - (a) any evidence given before it, or
  - (b) the contents of any document, or a description of any thing, produced to the Commission or seized under a search warrant issued under this Act, or
  - (c) any information that might enable a person who has given or may be about to give evidence before the Commission to be identified or located, or
  - (d) the fact that any person has given or may be about to give evidence at a compulsory examination or public inquiry, or
  - (e) any written submissions received by the Commission (including, but not limited to, submissions made by Counsel assisting the Commission),shall not be published or shall not be published except in such manner, and to such persons, as the Commission specifies.
- (1A) The Commission is not to give a direction under this section unless satisfied that the direction is necessary or desirable in the public interest.
- (1B) A direction under this section does not apply to—
  - (a) the making of a complaint to the Inspector or the disclosure of information, documents or other things to the Inspector, or
  - (b) the disclosure of information, documents or other things by a law enforcement

officer to the Director of Public Prosecutions in accordance with the duty of disclosure under section 15A of the *Director of Public Prosecutions Act 1986*.

- (2) A person shall not make a publication in contravention of a direction given under this section.

Maximum penalty—50 penalty units or imprisonment for 12 months, or both.

- (3) It is not a contravention of a direction given under this section to publish any evidence, contents of a document or information to a medical practitioner or psychologist for the purposes of that health practitioner providing medical or psychiatric care, treatment or counselling (including but not limited to psychological counselling) to a person who—
- (a) has given or may be about to give evidence at a compulsory examination or public inquiry, or
  - (b) has been given a notice under section 21 requiring the person to produce a statement of information, or
  - (c) has been given a notice under section 22 requiring the person to attend before a person specified in the notice to produce a document or other thing specified in the notice.

### **113 Evidence in criminal proceedings**

- (1) If—
- (a) a person has been charged with an offence before a court of the State, and
  - (b) the court considers that it is desirable in the interests of justice that particular evidence given before the Commission, being evidence in relation to which the Commission has given a direction under section 112, be made available to the person or to an Australian legal practitioner representing the person or to the prosecutor,
- the court may give to the Commission a certificate to that effect.
- (2) A Commissioner may appear before the court for the purpose of making representations concerning the giving of such a certificate.
- (3) On such a certificate being given, the Commission shall make the evidence or information available to the court.
- (4) The court may make the evidence or information available to the person charged with the offence concerned, to an Australian legal practitioner representing the person charged or to the prosecutor, if the court has examined the evidence or information and is satisfied that the interests of justice so require.



- (5) Nothing in section 111 prevents a person to whom that section applies from producing any document or other thing, or divulging or communicating any matter or thing, to the extent necessary to give effect to this section.
- (6) Nothing in section 112 prevents the evidence or information being made available under this section.

#### **114 Disclosures prejudicing investigations**

(1) A person who is required—

- (a) by a notice under section 21 or 22 to produce a statement of information or to attend and produce a document or other thing, or
- (b) by a summons under section 35 to give evidence or to produce a document or other thing,

shall not disclose any information about the notice or summons that is likely to prejudice the investigation to which it relates.

Maximum penalty—50 penalty units or imprisonment for 12 months, or both.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a notice or summons unless it specifies that information about the notice or summons must not be disclosed.

(3) A person does not contravene this section if—

- (a) the disclosure is made to an employee, agent or other person in order to obtain information to comply with the notice or summons and the employee, agent or other person is directed not to inform the person to whom the information relates about the matter, or
- (b) the disclosure is made to obtain legal advice or representation in relation to the notice or summons, or
- (c) the disclosure is made for the purposes of, or in the course of, legal proceedings, or
- (d) the disclosure is made to a medical practitioner or psychologist in relation to the provision by that health practitioner of medical or psychiatric care, treatment or counselling (including but not limited to psychological counselling) to a person—
  - (i) required by a summons under section 35 to give evidence, or
  - (ii) required by a notice under section 21 to produce a statement of information, or
  - (iii) required by a notice under section 22 to attend before a person specified in the notice to produce a document or other thing specified in the notice.

- (4) A reference in this section to the disclosure of any information about a notice or summons includes a reference to—
- (a) a disclosure about the existence or nature of the notice or summons or of the investigation to which it relates, and
  - (b) a disclosure of any information to a person from which the person could reasonably be expected to infer the existence or nature of the notice or summons or of the investigation to which it relates.

**114A Disciplinary proceedings—taking action based on finding of corrupt conduct**

- (1) This section applies if a finding is made by the Commission in a report under section 74 that a public official has engaged, or has attempted to engage, in corrupt conduct.
- (2) Disciplinary proceedings in connection with the employment of the public official may be taken by the employer of the public official on the ground of the conduct of the public official on which the finding was based.
- (3) The person or body determining the disciplinary proceedings—
- (a) is not required to further investigate whether that conduct occurred, and
  - (b) may take any disciplinary or other action against the public official of a kind that the person or body may otherwise take in disciplinary proceedings against any such public official, and
  - (c) is to give the public official an opportunity to make a submission in relation to any proposed disciplinary or other action.
- (4) Any such disciplinary or other action is taken to be action under the law relating to the taking of disciplinary proceedings against the public official and that law (including any right to appeal against or seek a review of the action) applies accordingly.
- (5) Evidence given to the Commission by the public official may be admitted and used in disciplinary proceedings against the public official that are authorised by this section (and in any related appeal or review proceedings) despite sections 26 and 37 or any other law. However, the admission and use of the evidence in those proceedings does not cause it to be admissible against the public official in any other proceedings.
- (6) The regulations may do any of the following—
- (a) exclude any proceedings against a public official from the operation of this section,
  - (b) declare that any proceedings against a public official are disciplinary proceedings in connection with the employment of a public official for the purposes of this section.

(7) This section does not apply—

- (a) to a finding of corrupt conduct that is made before the commencement of this section, or
- (b) to any evidence given before that commencement that would not at that time have been admissible in disciplinary proceedings.

(8) In this section—

**corrective action** has the same meaning as in Part 8A.

**disciplinary proceedings** includes the following, when taken in connection with the employment of a public official—

- (a) reasonable management action,
- (b) appropriate corrective action.

**employment** includes—

- (a) engagement under a contract for services, and
- (b) appointment as a statutory officer to whom a declaration under subsection (6) (b) applies.

**evidence given to the Commission** means—

- (a) a statement of information, or a document or other thing, produced in response to a notice by the Commission, and
- (b) an answer made, or a document or other thing produced, by a person summoned to attend or appearing before the Commission at a compulsory examination or public inquiry.

**reasonable management action** has the same meaning as in Part 8A.

### **115 Penalties for offences committed by corporations**

The maximum penalty applicable to a corporation convicted of an offence against this Act or the regulations is (except in so far as other provision is made by section 116) double the pecuniary penalty otherwise applying to the offence.

### **116 Proceedings for offences**

- (1) Except where otherwise expressly provided by this Act, proceedings for an offence against this Act or the regulations shall be dealt with summarily before the Local Court.
- (2) If an offence against this Act is an indictable offence, the Local Court may

nevertheless hear and determine the proceedings in respect of such an offence if the court is satisfied that it is proper to do so and the defendant and prosecutor consent.

- (3) If, in accordance with subsection (2), the Local Court convicts a person of such an offence, the maximum penalty that the court may impose is—
  - (a) in the case of an individual—the smaller of—
    - (i) a fine of 50 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years, or both, or
    - (ii) the maximum penalty otherwise applicable to the offence when committed by an individual, or
  - (b) in the case of a corporation—the smaller of—
    - (i) a fine of 100 penalty units, or
    - (ii) the maximum penalty otherwise applicable to the offence when committed by a corporation.
- (4) Proceedings for an alleged offence under section 79I, 80 (c), 81, 82 or 95 may be commenced within 3 years after the commission of the alleged offence.
- (5) Proceedings for an alleged offence under section 112 may be commenced within 2 years after the commission of the alleged offence.

## **117 Regulations**

- (1) The Governor may make regulations, not inconsistent with this Act, for or with respect to any matter that by this Act is required or permitted to be prescribed or that is necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to this Act.
- (2) In particular, the regulations may make provision for or with respect to—
  - (a) the appointment, conditions of employment, discipline, code of conduct and termination of employment of staff of the Commission, and
  - (b) security checks of officers of the Commission and applicants for appointment or engagement as officers of the Commission, and
  - (c) the service of a notice to an occupier whose premises are entered under a search warrant, and
  - (d) the issue of identity cards to officers of the Commission and their use, and
  - (e) forms to be used for the purposes of this Act, and
  - (f) the use and custody of the seal of the Commission.
- (3) A regulation may create an offence punishable by a penalty not exceeding 5 penalty

units.

- (4) Regulations may be made only on the recommendation of the Chief Commissioner, except regulations made under section 110.

### **117A Savings, transitional and other provisions**

Schedule 4 has effect.

### **118-121 (Repealed)**

### **122 Parliament**

- (1) Nothing in this Act shall be taken to affect the rights and privileges of Parliament in relation to the freedom of speech, and debates and proceedings, in Parliament.
- (2) The Commission may use a relevant register—
- (a) for the purpose of any investigation into whether or not a member of Parliament publicly disclosed a particular matter or as to the nature of any matter disclosed, and
  - (b) for the purpose of any finding, opinion or recommendation concerning the disclosure or non-disclosure,
- and for that purpose Parliament is taken to have waived any parliamentary privilege that may apply to the register.
- (3) Subsection (2) extends to investigations instigated, and relevant registers obtained for use, before the commencement of that subsection.
- (4) In this section, **relevant register** means a register of pecuniary interests or other matters required to be compiled and maintained pursuant to the regulations made under section 14A of the *Constitution Act 1902*, and includes—
- (a) a copy of any such register (or of a part of any such register) that is published as a parliamentary paper or otherwise, and
  - (b) a return or other document furnished by a member of Parliament for the purpose of the compilation and maintenance of the register, or a copy of the whole or any part of any such return or document.

## **Schedule 1 Provisions relating to Chief or other Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners**

(Sections 5 (4) and 6A (4))

### **1 Eligibility for appointment**

- (1) A person is not eligible to be appointed as a Commissioner or as an Assistant

Commissioner, or to act in that office, unless the person is qualified to be appointed as or has been—

- (a) a Judge of the Supreme Court of New South Wales or of another State or Territory, or
  - (b) a Judge of the Federal Court of Australia, or
  - (c) a Justice of the High Court of Australia.
- (2) A person is not eligible to be appointed as a Commissioner or as an Assistant Commissioner, or to act in that office, if the person is—
- (a) a member of the Legislative Council or of the Legislative Assembly or is a member of a House of Parliament or legislature of another State or Territory or of the Commonwealth, or
  - (b) the holder of any judicial office of the State or elsewhere in Australia.

## **2 Veto of proposed appointment as Commissioner**

- (1) A person is not to be appointed as a Commissioner until—
- (a) a proposal that the person be appointed has been referred to the Joint Committee under section 64A, and
  - (b) either the period that the Joint Committee has under that section to veto the proposed appointment has ended without the Committee having vetoed the proposed appointment or the Committee notifies the Minister that it has decided not to veto the proposed appointment.
- (2) A person may be proposed for appointment on more than one occasion.
- (3) In this clause and section 64A, **appointment** includes re-appointment.

## **3 Acting Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner**

- (1) The Governor may, from time to time, appoint a person to act in the office of a Commissioner or an Assistant Commissioner during the illness or absence of the Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner, and the person, while so acting, has all the functions of the Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner and is taken to be the Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner.
- (2) The Governor may, at any time, remove a person from the office to which the person was appointed under this clause.
- (3) A person while acting under this clause is entitled to be paid such remuneration (including travelling and subsistence allowances) as the Governor may from time to time determine.

(4) For the purposes of this clause—

- (a) a vacancy in the office of a Commissioner or an Assistant Commissioner is to be regarded as an absence from office of a Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner, and
- (b) an Assistant Commissioner is to be regarded as absent from office as an Assistant Commissioner during any period when the Assistant Commissioner acts in the office of a Commissioner pursuant to an appointment under this clause.

#### **4 Basis of offices**

- (1) The office of the Chief Commissioner is a full-time office.
- (2) The office of a Commissioner (other than the Chief Commissioner) is a part-time office.
- (3) The office of an Assistant Commissioner may be a full-time office or a part-time office, according to the terms of appointment.
- (4) The holder of a full-time office referred to in subclause (1) or (3) is required to hold it on that basis, except to the extent permitted by the Governor.

#### **5 Terms of office**

- (1) Subject to this Schedule, a Commissioner holds office for such term not exceeding 5 years as may be specified in the instrument of appointment, but is eligible (if otherwise qualified) for re-appointment.
- (2) A person may not hold the office of a Commissioner for terms totalling more than 5 years.
- (3) Subject to this Schedule, an Assistant Commissioner holds office for such term not exceeding 5 years as may be specified in the instrument of appointment, but is eligible (if otherwise qualified) for re-appointment.
- (4) A person may not hold the office of an Assistant Commissioner for terms totalling more than 5 years.

#### **6 Remuneration**

- (1) A Commissioner or an Assistant Commissioner is entitled to be paid such remuneration (including travelling and subsistence allowances) as may be specified in the instrument of appointment or as may be afterwards determined by the Governor from time to time.
- (2) A determination does not operate so as to reduce the rate at which remuneration is payable during the person's current term of office.

- (3) Remuneration is payable out of the Consolidated Fund, which is accordingly appropriated to the necessary extent.
- (4) The Minister may seek the advice of the Statutory and Other Offices Remuneration Tribunal as to appropriate rates of remuneration for Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners.

## **7 Vacancy in office**

- (1) The office of a Commissioner or an Assistant Commissioner becomes vacant if the holder—
  - (a) dies, or
  - (b) completes a term of office and is not re-appointed, or
  - (c) holds office for longer than the relevant period mentioned in clause 5, or
  - (d) resigns the office by instrument in writing addressed to the Governor, or
  - (e) becomes the holder of a judicial office of the State or elsewhere in Australia, or
  - (f) is nominated for election as a member of the Legislative Council or the Legislative Assembly or as a member of a House of Parliament of another State or of the Commonwealth, or
  - (g) becomes bankrupt, applies to take the benefit of any law for the relief of bankrupt or insolvent debtors, compounds with his or her creditors or makes an assignment of his or her remuneration for their benefit, or
  - (h) becomes a mentally incapacitated person, or
  - (i) is convicted in New South Wales of an offence that is punishable by imprisonment for 12 months or more or is convicted elsewhere than in New South Wales of an offence that, if committed in New South Wales, would be an offence so punishable, or
  - (j) is removed from office under subclause (2) or (3).
- (2) A Commissioner may be removed from office by the Governor on the address of both Houses of Parliament.
- (3) The Governor may remove an Assistant Commissioner from office for incapacity, incompetence or misbehaviour.

## **8 Filling of vacancy**

- (1) If the office of a Commissioner becomes vacant, a person is, subject to this Act, to be appointed to fill the vacancy.



- (2) If the office of an Assistant Commissioner becomes vacant, a person may, subject to this Act, be appointed to fill the vacancy.

## **9 Public Service employment provisions excluded**

The offices of a Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner are statutory offices and the provisions of the *Government Sector Employment Act 2013* relating to the employment of Public Service employees do not apply to those offices.

## **Schedule 1A Provisions relating to Inspector and Assistant Inspector**

(Section 57A (2))

### **1A References to Inspector include references to Assistant Inspector**

A reference in this Schedule to the Inspector is taken to include a reference to an Assistant Inspector, except—

- (a) in clauses 8 and 10, and
- (b) as may be provided by the regulations.

### **1 Eligibility for appointment**

A person is not eligible to be appointed as Inspector or to act in that office if the person is a member of the Legislative Council or of the Legislative Assembly or is a member of a House of Parliament or legislature of another State or Territory or of the Commonwealth.

### **2 Acting Inspector**

- (1) The Governor may, from time to time, appoint a person to act in the office of Inspector during the illness or absence of the Inspector. The person, while so acting, has all the functions of the Inspector and is taken to be the Inspector.
- (2) The Governor may, at any time, remove a person from the office to which the person was appointed under this clause.
- (3) A person while acting under this clause is entitled to be paid such remuneration (including travelling and subsistence allowances) as the Governor may from time to time determine.
- (4) For the purposes of this clause, a vacancy in the office of Inspector is taken to be an absence from office of Inspector.

### **3 Basis of office**

- (1) The office of Inspector may be a full-time or part-time office, according to the terms of appointment.
- (2) The holder of a full-time office referred to in subclause (1) is required to hold it on that

basis, except to the extent permitted by the Governor.

#### **4 Terms of office**

- (1) Subject to this Schedule, the Inspector holds office for such term not exceeding 5 years as may be specified in the instrument of appointment, but is eligible (if otherwise qualified) for re-appointment.
- (2) A person may not hold the office of Inspector for terms totalling more than 10 years.

#### **5 Remuneration**

- (1) The Inspector is entitled to be paid such remuneration (including travelling and subsistence allowances) as may be specified in the instrument of appointment or as may be afterwards determined by the Governor from time to time.
- (2) A determination does not operate so as to reduce the rate at which remuneration is payable during the person's current term of office.
- (3) The Inspector is not, if a Judge of a New South Wales court and while receiving remuneration as such a Judge, entitled to remuneration under this Act.

#### **6 Provisions where Judge is holding office as Inspector**

- (1) The appointment of a person who is the holder of a judicial office as Inspector or service by a person who is the holder of a judicial office as Inspector does not affect—
  - (a) the person's tenure of that judicial office, or
  - (b) the person's rank, title, status, remuneration or other rights or privileges as the holder of that judicial office.
- (2) The person's service as Inspector is, for all purposes, taken to be service as the holder of that judicial office.
- (3) In this clause—

***judicial office*** means an office of Judge of a court of New South Wales.

#### **6A Appointment of Supreme Court or District Court Judge as Inspector**

- (1) This clause applies to a person—
  - (a) who was a Judge of the Supreme Court or the District Court before being appointed as Inspector, whether on a regular or an acting basis, and
  - (b) whose resignation as a Judge took effect immediately before the appointment as Inspector took effect, and
  - (c) whose instrument of appointment as Inspector declared that the person's

commission as a Judge is to revive by force of this clause, and

- (d) who consented by letter to the Minister to the application of this clause.
- (2) The person's commission as a Judge revives by force of this clause when the person ceases to hold office as Inspector.
- (3) The person becomes, from the time the person ceases to hold office as Inspector—
  - (a) if the person was a Judge of the Supreme Court before being appointed as Inspector—a Judge of the Supreme Court again, or
  - (b) if the person was a Judge of the District Court before being appointed as Inspector—a Judge of the District Court again.
- (4) Subclauses (2) and (3) do not apply in relation to any other judicial office held by the person.
- (5) For the purposes of the *Judges' Pensions Act 1953*—
  - (a) service by the person as Inspector is taken to be service as a Judge, and
  - (b) references to a Judge or judicial office include references to the person in the person's capacity as Inspector and the office of Inspector, and
  - (c) references to notional judicial salary are, in relation to the person while Inspector, references to the salary payable to the holder of a judicial office having a status equivalent to that of the judicial office held by the person immediately before being appointed as Inspector.
- (6) Subclauses (2) and (3) do not apply to the person if—
  - (a) the person makes a request by letter to the Minister, or
  - (b) the person is removed from office as Inspector by the Governor on the address of both Houses of Parliament under clause 7(2).
- (7) For the purposes of this clause, a reappointment of the person as Inspector without a break is taken to be a continuation of the previous appointment as Inspector.

## **7 Vacancy in office**

- (1) **Vacancies** The office of Inspector becomes vacant if the holder—
  - (a) dies, or
  - (b) completes a term of office and is not re-appointed, or
  - (c) holds office for longer than the relevant term mentioned in clause 4, or

- (d) resigns the office by instrument in writing addressed to the Governor, or
- (e) is nominated for election as a member of the Legislative Council or of the Legislative Assembly or as a member of a House of Parliament or a legislature of another State or Territory or of the Commonwealth, or
- (f) becomes bankrupt, applies to take the benefit of any law for the relief of bankrupt or insolvent debtors, compounds with his or her creditors or makes an assignment of his or her remuneration for their benefit, or
- (g) becomes a mentally incapacitated person, or
- (h) is convicted in New South Wales of an offence that is punishable by imprisonment for 12 months or more or is convicted elsewhere than in New South Wales of an offence that, if committed in New South Wales, would be an offence so punishable, or
- (i) is removed from office under subclause (2).

(2) **Removal from office** The Inspector may be removed from office by the Governor on the address of both Houses of Parliament.

## **8 Filling of vacancy**

If the office of Inspector becomes vacant, a person is, subject to this Act, to be appointed to fill the vacancy.

## **9 Effect of certain other Acts**

- (1) The office of Inspector is a statutory office and the provisions of the [Government Sector Employment Act 2013](#) relating to the employment of Public Service employees do not apply to that office.
- (2) If by or under any other Act provision is made—
  - (a) requiring a person who is the holder of a specified office to devote the whole of his or her time to the duties of that office, or
  - (b) prohibiting the person from engaging in employment outside the duties of that office,

the provision does not operate to disqualify the person from holding that office and also the office of Inspector or from accepting and retaining any remuneration payable to the person under this Act as Inspector.

## **10 Veto of proposed appointment of Inspector**

- (1) A person is not to be appointed as Inspector until—

- (a) a proposal that the person be so appointed has been referred to the Joint Committee under section 64A, and
- (b) the period that the Committee has under that section to veto the proposed appointment has ended without the Committee having vetoed the proposed appointment or the Committee notifies the Minister that it has decided not to veto the proposed appointment.

(2) A person may be proposed for appointment on more than one occasion.

(3) In this clause, **appointment** includes re-appointment.

## Schedule 2 (Repealed)

## Schedule 3 Rights of certain staff of Commission

(Section 104 (12))

### 1 Definitions

In this Schedule—

**member of staff** means a member of staff of the Commission who is employed under section 104 otherwise than on a temporary basis.

**proclaimed body** means any body or organisation constituted or regulated by or under an Act that is declared by the Governor to be a body or organisation to which this Schedule applies.

**superannuation scheme** means a scheme, fund or arrangement, under which any superannuation or retirement benefits are provided and which is established by or under any Act.

### 2 Preservation of rights of staff previously public servants etc

(1) This clause applies where a member of staff was, immediately before being employed as a member of staff—

- (a) an officer of the Public Service or the Teaching Service, or
- (b) a member of the NSW Police Force, or
- (c) a contributor to a superannuation scheme, or
- (d) an officer employed by a proclaimed body, or
- (e) a person in respect of whom provision was made by any Act for the retention of any rights accrued or accruing to the person as an officer or employee.

(2) The member of staff—

- (a) shall retain any rights accrued or accruing to him or her as such an officer, member, contributor or person, and
- (b) may continue to contribute to any superannuation scheme to which he or she was a contributor immediately before being employed as a member of staff, and
- (c) is entitled to receive any deferred or extended leave and any payment, pension or gratuity,

as if he or she had continued to be such an officer, member, contributor or person during his or her service as a member of staff.

- (3) Service as a member of staff shall be regarded as service as an officer or employee for the purposes of any law under which those rights accrued or were accruing, under which he or she continues to contribute or by which that entitlement is conferred.
- (4) The member of staff shall be regarded as an officer or employee, and a Chief Commissioner shall be regarded as the employer, for the purposes of the superannuation scheme to which he or she is entitled to contribute under this clause.
- (5) If the member of staff would, but for this subclause, be entitled under subclause (2) to contribute to a superannuation scheme or to receive any payment, pension or gratuity under the scheme—
  - (a) he or she is not so entitled on becoming (whether on being employed as a member of staff or at any later time while a member of staff) a contributor to any other superannuation scheme, and
  - (b) the provisions of subclause (4) cease to apply to or in respect of him or her and a Chief Commissioner in any case where he or she becomes a contributor to any such other superannuation scheme.
- (6) Subclause (5) does not prevent the payment to the member of staff (on his or her ceasing to be a contributor to a superannuation scheme) of such amount as would have been payable to him or her if he or she had ceased, because of resignation, to be an officer or employee for the purposes of the scheme.
- (7) A member of staff is not, in respect of the same period of service, entitled to dual benefits of the same kind through the operation of this clause.

### **3 Member of staff entitled to re-appointment to former employment in certain cases**

A person who—

- (a) being a member of staff, ceases to be employed under section 104 (except through dismissal on the ground of misbehaviour), and
- (b) was, immediately before being employed as a member of staff—

- (i) an officer of the Public Service or the Teaching Service, or
- (ii) an officer employed by a proclaimed body,

(c) (Repealed)

is entitled to be appointed to some position in the Public Service, the Teaching Service or the service of the proclaimed body, as the case may be, not lower in classification and salary than that which the person held immediately before being employed as a member of staff.

#### **4 Rank etc of seconded police**

While a police officer is a member of the staff of the Commission by reason of performing services for the Commission, the member shall retain rank, seniority and remuneration as a police officer.

### **Schedule 4 Savings, transitional and other provisions**

(Section 117A)

## **Part 1 Preliminary**

### **1 Regulations**

- (1) The regulations may contain provisions of a savings or transitional nature consequent on the enactment of the following Acts—

*Independent Commission Against Corruption (Amendment) Act 1990*

*Investigative Bodies Legislation Amendment Act 1997*

*Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment (Ethics Committee) Act 2003*

*Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment Act 2005*

*Public Sector Employment Legislation Amendment Act 2006*, to the extent that it amends this Act

*Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment Act 2008*

*Independent Commission Against Corruption and Ombudsman Legislation Amendment Act 2009*

*Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment Act 2011*

any other Act that amends this Act

- (2) Any such provision may, if the regulations so provide, take effect from the date of

assent to the Act concerned or a later date.

- (3) To the extent to which any such provision takes effect from a date that is earlier than the date of its publication in the Gazette, the provision does not operate so as—
- (a) to affect, in a manner prejudicial to any person (other than the State or an authority of the State), the rights of that person existing before the date of its publication, or
  - (b) to impose liabilities on any person (other than the State or an authority of the State) in respect of anything done or omitted to be done before the date of its publication.

## **Part 2 Provisions consequent on enactment of [Independent Commission Against Corruption \(Amendment\) Act 1990](#)**

### **1A Definition**

In this Part, **amending Act** means the [Independent Commission Against Corruption \(Amendment\) Act 1990](#).

### **2 Secrecy—task force and members**

Section 16 applies as amended by the amending Act to information disseminated before or after the commencement of the amendment to a task force or member of a task force.

### **3 Effect of pending proceedings on Commission's powers**

Section 18 applies as amended by the amending Act to and in respect of proceedings whether the proceedings were commenced before or after the commencement of the amendment.

### **4 Commission's powers to make and report findings etc**

- (1) In this clause—

**the relevant amendments** means the amendments made to this Act by Schedule 1 (6)-(10) to the amending Act.

- (2) Anything done or purporting to have been done by the Commission before the commencement of the relevant amendments which would have been validly done if those amendments had then been in force is to be considered to have been, and always to have been, validly done.
- (3) This Act applies as amended by the relevant amendments to and in respect of a report under section 74—
- (a) even if the report relates to a reference made or an investigation or hearing commenced or completed before the commencement of those amendments, and



- (b) even if the report was prepared before, or its preparation was begun before, the commencement of those amendments.

### **Part 3 Provision consequent on enactment of [Statute Law Revision \(Local Government\) Act 1995](#)**

#### **5 Saving provision**

An investigation may be commenced and completed in relation to a reference made in accordance with this Act before the amendment of section 3 by the [Statute Law Revision \(Local Government\) Act 1995](#) in respect of an urban committee or a person or body exercising all or any of the functions of such a committee as if that section had not been so amended.

### **Part 4 Provisions consequent on the enactment of [Schedule 4 to Investigative Bodies Legislation Amendment Act 1997](#)**

#### **6 Definition**

In this Part, **amending Act** means the [Investigative Bodies Legislation Amendment Act 1997](#).

#### **7 Conditional release**

- (1) Section 36A only applies to any release ordered on or after the commencement of that section.
- (2) Section 36B only applies to any decision, failure or order made or occurring on or after the commencement of that section.

#### **8 Preventing witness from attending**

A reference in section 92 (3), as inserted by the amending Act, to a person who is in detention includes a reference to a person in detention at the commencement of that subsection even if the person was detained before that commencement.

#### **9 Release of contemnor**

- (1) The power, contained in section 100A, to release an offender detained under section 100 may be exercised in relation to an offender already in detention at the commencement of section 100A or detained at any time afterwards.
- (2) Section 100B only applies to any decision, failure or order made or occurring on or after the commencement of that section.

#### **10 Secrecy of identity and location of witness**

A reference in section 112, as amended by the amending Act, to a person who has given

evidence includes a reference to a person who has given evidence before the commencement of that amendment.

## **Part 5 Provisions consequent on enactment of [Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment Act 2005](#)**

### **11 Definition**

In this Part, **amending Act** means the [Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment Act 2005](#).

### **12 Pending investigations**

- (1) The amendments made by the amending Act apply to and in respect of a complaint or report made to, or investigation commenced by, the Commission before the commencement of this clause.
- (2) Despite subclause (1), the amendments made by the amending Act (other than those made to Part 10 (Contempt of Commission)) do not affect or apply to or in respect of any investigation in which a public hearing has commenced before the commencement of this clause.
- (3) In particular, the amendments made by the amending Act do not affect any step taken in respect of the public hearing or in connection with a hearing.

### **13 Annual reports**

The amendments made to section 76 by the amending Act extend to the annual report for the year ended, except as provided by the regulations.

### **14 References to hearings**

In any statutory instrument other than this Act, a reference to a hearing held under this Act is to be read as a reference to a compulsory examination or public inquiry as the case requires.

### **15 Inspector**

Part 5A, as inserted by the amending Act, extends to complaints made, and conduct of the Commission or officers of the Commission that occurred, before the commencement of this clause, and it does not matter that any person or persons involved are no longer public officials.

## **Part 6 Provisions consequent on enactment of [Public Sector](#)**

## Employment Legislation Amendment Act 2006

### 16 Definitions

In this Part—

**amending Act** means the *Public Sector Employment Legislation Amendment Act 2006*.

**relevant commencement** means the date on which Schedule 5.5 to the amending Act commences.

### 17 Existing staff of Commission

- (1) Each person who, immediately before the relevant commencement—
  - (a) was employed by the Commission under section 104 is, on that commencement, taken to have been appointed, in accordance with section 104 as substituted by the amending Act, as a member of staff of the Commission and to hold the same staff position that the person held immediately before that commencement, and
  - (b) was a member of staff of the Commission pursuant to any arrangements under section 104 is, on that commencement, taken to be a member of staff under section 104A (as inserted by the amending Act).
- (2) Any such person who, pursuant to subclause (1) (a), is taken to be appointed and employed as a member of staff of the Commission—
  - (a) retains any rights to leave (including annual leave, extended leave and sick leave) accrued or accruing to the person as an employee of the Commission before the relevant commencement, and
  - (b) is, until such time as provision is otherwise made under this or any other Act or law, to continue to be employed in accordance with any State industrial instrument or determination that applied to the person as an employee of the Commission.

## Part 7 Provisions consequent on enactment of **Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment (Operations Review Committee) Act 2006**

### 18 Definition

In this Part—

**amending Act** means the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment (Operations Review Committee) Act 2006*.

## 19 Abolition of Committee

- (1) The Operations Review Committee is abolished.
- (2) A person who ceases to hold office as a member of the Operations Review Committee because of its abolition is not entitled to any remuneration or compensation because of the loss of that office.

## 20 Existing complaints and other matters

Despite the *Interpretation Act 1987* or any other law, the Operations Review Committee does not continue in existence to provide advice with respect to—

- (a) the investigation of any complaint, or
- (b) any other matter referred to the Committee by the Commissioner,

because the complaint was made, or the matter was referred, before the repeal of Part 6 of this Act by the amending Act.

## 21 Secrecy

Despite the repeal of section 111 (1) (c) by the amending Act, section 111 continues to apply to and in respect of a person who was a member of the Operations Review Committee as if that paragraph had not been repealed.

## Part 8 Provisions consequent on enactment of **Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment Act 2008**

### 22 Definition

In this Part—

**amending Act** means the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment Act 2008*.

### 23 Restriction on publication of written submissions

The amendment made to section 112 by the amending Act extends to any written submissions received by the Commission before the commencement of the amendment.

### 24 Commencement of proceedings under section 82 or 95

The amendment made to section 116 by the amending Act extends to offences committed, or alleged to have been committed, before the commencement of the amendment.

### 25 Operation of amendments to section 11

Section 11, as amended by the amending Act, extends to possible corrupt conduct that

occurred before the date of assent to that Act.

## **Part 9 Use of unlawful surveillance device recordings concerning Mr Michael Loch McGurk—2009 amending Act**

### **26 Definitions**

In this Part—

**Commission** includes an officer of the Commission.

**relevant recording** means a recording of any private conversation to which Mr Michael Loch McGurk, deceased former resident of Cremorne, was a party or was apparently a party.

**surveillance device** means a surveillance device within the meaning of the [Surveillance Devices Act 2007](#).

### **27 Use etc of relevant recordings despite [Surveillance Devices Act 2007](#)**

(1) Part 2 of the [Surveillance Devices Act 2007](#) is not contravened by—

- (a) the Commission obtaining, possessing, publishing or communicating, before 31 December 2010, in accordance with a provision of this Act, any relevant recording that has been obtained by the use of a surveillance device in contravention of Part 2 of that Act, or
- (b) a person providing any such relevant recording to the Commission, before 31 December 2010, in accordance with a requirement made of the person under this Act, or
- (c) the possession, publication or communication at any time of a report of the Commission made before 31 December 2010 concerning any such relevant recording (or of any information in the report).

(2) The Commission is to ensure that the publication or communication of a relevant recording referred to in subclause (1) is made only for the purposes of investigating or reporting on particular alleged corrupt conduct.

### **28 Operation of this Part**

- (1) This Part extends to relevant recordings obtained by a person by the use of a surveillance device before the commencement of this Part.
- (2) Anything done by the Commission or other person before the commencement of this Part that would not have contravened Part 2 of the [Surveillance Devices Act 2007](#) if it had been done after that commencement is taken not to have been a contravention of that Part.

## **Part 10 Provision consequent on enactment of Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (No 2) 2010**

### **29 Maximum period for which Assistant Commissioners may be appointed**

Clause 4 (3) of Schedule 1, as amended by the *Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (No 2) 2010*, applies in relation to a term of office whether served before or after the commencement of the amendment.

## **Part 11 Provisions consequent on enactment of Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment Act 2011**

### **30 Definition**

In this Part—

**amending Act** means the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment Act 2011*.

### **31 Use etc of protected information under Surveillance Devices Act 2007 for audit of Commission operations by Inspector**

The amendment made to section 57F by the amending Act extends to the use, publication or communication before the commencement of the amendment of protected information within the meaning of the *Surveillance Devices Act 2007* in relation to the exercise of the Inspector's functions under section 57B.

### **32 Saving of pending application for unfair dismissal**

Section 104 (11A) as inserted by the amending Act does not apply to or in respect of an application made under Part 6 of Chapter 2 of the *Industrial Relations Act 1996* before the commencement of the amending Act.

## **Part 12 Provisions consequent on enactment of Independent Commission Against Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013**

### **33 Previous collection, use and disclosure of vetting information**

Any collection, use or disclosure of vetting information to or by the Inspector or the Commission that occurred before the commencement of section 104C, as inserted by the *Independent Commission Against Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013*, is taken to have been validly done if the collection, use or disclosure would have been valid if done on or after that commencement.

## **Part 13 Validation relating to decision on 15 April 2015 in Independent Commission Against Corruption v Cunneen[2015] HCA**

## 14

### 34 Interpretation

(1) In this Part—

**relevant conduct** means conduct that would be corrupt conduct for the purposes of this Act if the reference in section 8 (2) to conduct that adversely affects, or could adversely affect, the exercise of official functions included conduct that adversely affects, or could adversely affect, the efficacy (but not the probity) of the exercise of official functions.

(2) A reference in this Part to anything done or purporting to have been done by the Commission includes a reference to—

- (a) anything done or purporting to have been done by an officer of the Commission, and
- (b) any investigation, examination, inquiry, hearing, finding, referral, recommendation or report conducted or made by the Commission or an officer of the Commission, and
- (c) any order, direction, summons, notice or other requirement made or issued by the Commission or an officer of the Commission, and
- (d) the obtaining or receipt of anything by the Commission or an officer of the Commission.

(3) A reference in this Part to evidence given to the Commission includes a reference to—

- (a) a statement of information, or a document or other thing, produced in response to a notice by the Commission or an officer of the Commission, and
- (b) an answer made, or a document or other thing produced, by a person summoned to attend or appearing before the Commission or an officer of the Commission at a compulsory examination or public inquiry, and
- (c) any information, document or other thing otherwise obtained or received by the Commission or an officer of the Commission.

### 35 Validation

(1) Anything done or purporting to have been done by the Commission before 15 April 2015 that would have been validly done if corrupt conduct for the purposes of this Act included relevant conduct is taken to have been, and always to have been, validly done.

(2) The validation under subclause (1) extends to the validation of—

- (a) things done or purporting to have been done by any person or body, and
  - (b) legal proceedings and matters arising in or as a result of those proceedings, if their validity relies on the validity of a thing done or purporting to have been done by the Commission.
- (3) The validation under subclause (1) extends to the validation of things on and from the date they were done or purported to have been done.
- (4) The Commission is authorised (and is taken always to have been authorised) to exercise functions under this Act on or after 15 April 2015 to refer matters for investigation or other action to other persons or bodies, or to communicate or provide evidence given to the Commission to other persons or bodies, even if the matter arose or the evidence was given to the Commission before 15 April 2015 and its validity relies on the validation under subclause (1).
- (5) Subclause (4) applies even if any finding of corrupt conduct that relates to the matter or evidence is declared a nullity or otherwise set aside by a court.
- (6) However, a person is not (and was not) required to comply, on and after 15 April 2015, with any order, direction, summons, notice or other requirement made or issued by the Commission or an officer of the Commission before 15 April 2015 if the validity of the order, direction, summons, notice or other requirement relies on the validation under subclause (1).

## **Part 14 Provisions consequent on enactment of [Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment Act 2015](#)**

### **36 Definition**

In this Part—

**amending Act** means the [Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment Act 2015](#).

### **37 Application of amendment to section 8 (4)**

The amendment to section 8 (4) made by the amending Act extends to conduct occurring before the commencement of that amendment.

### **38 Application of section 13A**

- (1) Section 13A, as inserted by the amending Act, extends to possible criminal offences referred to in that section that may have been committed before the commencement of the amending Act.
- (2) The Electoral Commission is taken to have referred to the Commission under section



13A the investigation of conduct that may involve possible criminal offences under the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912*, the *Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981* or the *Lobbying of Government Officials Act 2011* that have come to light as a result of investigations and proceedings of the Commission known as Operation Spicer and Operation Credo. The Commission is taken to have determined under that section to continue that investigation.

### 39 Application of section 74BA

Section 74BA, as inserted by the amending Act, applies to reports made by the Commission after the commencement of that section, and so applies even if the report relates to an investigation commenced or undertaken before that commencement.

## Part 15 Provisions consequent on enactment of *Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment Act 2016*

### 40 Definitions

In this Part—

**amending Act** means the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment Act 2016*.

**former Commissioner** means the Commissioner for the Commission appointed under section 5 before the substitution of Part 2 of this Act by the amending Act.

### 41 Amendments relating to Commissioners

- (1) The abolition of the office of the former Commissioner as a result of the substitution of Part 2 of this Act by the amending Act does not affect the identity of the Commission.
- (2) Anything done or omitted to be done by the former Commissioner before the substitution of Part 2 of this Act by the amending Act continues to have effect after that substitution as if it had been done or omitted by the Chief Commissioner.
- (3) A term of office as the former Commissioner is taken to be a term of office as a Commissioner for the purposes of the limitation on the maximum terms of office that a person may hold office as a Commissioner as provided by clause 5 of Schedule 1.
- (4) A reference in any other Act, statutory instrument or document to the former Commissioner is taken to be a reference to the Chief Commissioner or, if the context or subject-matter so requires, to any Commissioner.

**Note—**

See also section 5 of the *Independent Commission Against Corruption (Commissioner) Act 1994*.

### 42 Amendments relating to authorisation by Commissioners of public inquiries

Section 6 (2), as enacted by the amending Act, does not apply to a public inquiry that was

commenced before the enactment of section 6 (2).

#### **43 Application of amendment about responding to adverse finding in report**

Section 79A, as inserted by the amending Act, extends to a report relating to an investigation commenced or undertaken before the date of commencement of that section unless the Commission or the Inspector finalised the report before that commencement.

### **Part 16 Provision consequent on enactment of ICAC and LECC Legislation Amendment Act 2022**

#### **44 Commencement of amendments by ICAC and LECC Legislation Amendment Act 2022**

- (1) The amendments made by the amending Act apply on and from 30 June 2022, including if the amending Act commences after that date.
- (2) In this clause—

**amending Act** means the *ICAC and LECC Legislation Amendment Act 2022*.

### **Part 17 Provision consequent on enactment of ICAC and LECC Legislation Amendment Act 2023**

#### **45 Extension of term of office for Commissioners**

- (1) This clause applies in relation to a Commissioner who held office immediately before the commencement of this clause.
- (2) The Governor may, by instrument, extend the term of office of the Commissioner by a period, not more than 12 months, specified in the instrument.