

# Proclamation – Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024

Explanatory notes for SL 2024 No. 70

made under the

*Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024*

## General Outline

### Short title

Proclamation commencing the remaining provisions of the *Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024*

### Authorising law

Section 2 of the *Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024*.

### Policy objectives and the reasons for them

The objective of the Proclamation is to set 30 June 2024, 1 July 2024, 15 September 2024 and 31 December 2024 as the commencement dates for certain provisions of the *Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024* (Amendment Act), following its enactment on 19 February 2024.

The Amendment Act implements recommendations from the reports ‘Let the sunshine in: Review of culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector’ (Coaldrake Report) and the ‘Strategic Review of the Integrity Commissioner’s Functions’ (Yearbury Report). These recommendations involve strengthening the regulation of lobbyists and lobbying activities and enhancing the independence of core integrity bodies, including the Queensland Integrity Commissioner, Auditor-General, Information Commissioner, Ombudsman and Crime and Corruption Commission.

Section 2 of the Amendment Act provides that, other than part 3A (which commenced on the date of Assent) and part 4, division 2 (which commenced on 19 April 2024), the Amendment Act commences on a day to be fixed by proclamation.

It is proposed to commence the remaining provisions of the Amendment Act as follows:

- 30 June 2024 – commence provisions that will provide for parliamentary committee oversight of the annual reports of the Queensland Audit Office, Queensland Integrity Commissioner and Queensland Ombudsman, including transitional provisions that will apply these provisions to 2024-25 annual reports.

- 1 July 2024 – commence provisions that will establish the Office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner as a statutory body from that date.
- 15 September 2024 – commence provisions that will:
  - provide for parliamentary committee oversight of the Office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner, Queensland Audit Office, Office of the Information Commissioner and Office of the Queensland Ombudsman in relation to key appointments, terms of reference for statutory strategic reviews and appointment of strategic reviewers, and the appointment of the independent auditor to audit the Queensland Audit Office; and
  - enable the Queensland Ombudsman to consider complaints about, and initiate investigations of non-government entities that provide government services.
- 31 December 2024 – commence provisions that will provide for parliamentary committee oversight of:
  - proposals from the Queensland Audit Office, Crime and Corruption Commission and the Offices of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner, Queensland Ombudsman and Information Commissioner, for additional funding; and
  - the annual report of the Information Commissioner, which will apply the provisions to that entity’s 2024-25 annual report.

## **Achievement of policy objectives**

The policy objective is achieved by fixing the commencement dates of 30 June 2024, 1 July 2024, 15 September 2024 and 31 December 2024 for certain provisions of the Amendment Act.

## **Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law**

The Proclamation is consistent with the policy objectives of the Amendment Act.

## **Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation**

No inconsistencies with the policy objectives of other legislation have been identified.

## **Alternative ways of achieving policy objectives**

The Proclamation is the only effective means of achieving the policy objective.

## **Benefits and costs of implementation**

The Proclamation commences provisions that enable some of the recommendations of the Coaldrake Report and Yearbury Report to be implemented.

The costs of implementing the Act are outlined in the explanatory notes for the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. These costs include the Queensland Government investing \$4 million over four years in the Office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner to better provide integrity advice and regulate lobbyists, and to establish the Office as an independent statutory body.

## **Consistency with fundamental legislative principles**

The Proclamation is consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

## **Consultation**

Consultation was undertaken with relevant stakeholders during the development of the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. Further consultation on the Proclamation dates has been undertaken with Queensland Treasury, the Queensland Integrity Commissioner, the Queensland Ombudsman, the Information Commissioner, the Crime and Corruption Commission and the Queensland Audit Office, all of which support commencing the remaining provisions.

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