

DRAFT SECOND READING SPEECH

HON. M. T. (RENE) HIDDING MP

Australian Crime Commission Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2017

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Madam Speaker, I move that the Bill now be read a second time. The purpose of the Bill is to make a number of amendments to Tasmanian Acts that authorise, or facilitate, the release of information to CrimTrac.

Mister President, up until the 1st of July 2016, CrimTrac was the national information-sharing service for Australia's police, law enforcement and national security agencies. The agency was established in 2000 under an Inter-Governmental Agreement, as a Commonwealth Executive Agency and collaborative partnership between the Commonwealth, states and territories.

In 2002, to counter serious and organised crime in Australia, the Australian Crime Commission was established under the *Australian Crime Commission Act 2002*. The functions of the Australian Crime Commission include: collecting and analysing criminal intelligence; setting national criminal intelligence priorities; providing and maintaining criminal intelligence systems; and investigating federally relevant criminal activity and undertaking taskforces in conjunction with state and territory police.

In February 2014, a National Commission of Audit recommended CrimTrac be merged with the Australian Crime Commission to better harness their collective resources. This recommendation was supported by all Australian governments and on the 1st of July 2016, Commonwealth legislation took effect merging CrimTrac into the Australian Crime Commission.

The Australian Crime Commission now performs all the previous functions of CrimTrac including providing national police information systems to police agencies and nationally coordinated criminal history checks to accredited agencies. It should be noted that the merged organisation is still referred to as Australian Crime Commission by the Commonwealth ACC Act and this remains its name for any legislative purposes.

Mister President, four Tasmanian Acts authorise the release of information to CrimTrac. Those four Acts are:

- the *Annulled Convictions Act 2003*;
- the *Firearms Act 1996*;
- the *Forensic Procedures Act 2000*; and
- the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Tasmania) Act 2010*.

This Bill amends these Acts, removing references to CrimTrac, and where required, replacing them with references to the Australian Crime Commission. This will allow the information that would have once been sent to CrimTrac, to instead, be sent to the Australian Crime Commission.

Finally, the Bill also adds a transitional clause into the *Forensic Procedures Act 2000*. This ensures that any agreements made between Tasmanian government agencies and CrimTrac are in effect ported across to the Australian Crime Commission and thus deemed to be an equivalent agreement with the Australian Crime Commission.

This Bill will take effect on the day it receives the Royal Assent and I commend it to the House.