1. The Corrective Services and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 (the Bill) provides a response to the immediate risks identified in the Crime and Corruption Commission’s *Taskforce Flaxton: An examination of corruption risks and corruption in Queensland’s prisons* (Taskforce Flaxton), supports implementation of recommendations from the Queensland Parole System Review (QPSR), and improves operational efficiencies for Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) and the Parole Board Queensland (PBQ).
2. The Bill also supports a resolution of the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management to establish a permanent national firearms amnesty, by amending the *Weapons Act 1990* to introduce a permanent amnesty into Queensland. It also makes an amendment supporting the implementation of the Queensland Police Service (QPS) policy on replica firearms (including ‘gel blasters’ that look like replica firearms) and makes a minor technical amendment to the *Racing Integrity Act 2016* and the Racing Integrity Regulation 2016.
3. The Crime and Corruption Commission Taskforce Flaxton report made 33 recommendations for reforming Queensland Corrective Services anti-corruption framework to reduce, prevent, detect and manage corruption and corruption risk in corrective services facilities. The Bill amends the *Corrective Services Act 2006* to improve Queensland Corrective Services’ ability to identify contraband and reduce the risk of it entering corrective services facilities. This includes introducing a discretion to require corrective services officers to undergo alcohol or drug testing. The Bill also authorises QCS’s Professional Standards and Governance Command inspectors to investigate alleged staff misconduct or corruption and improves the management of criminal conduct by prisoners.
4. The Bill introduces two new offences in response to identified risks. The Bill prohibits a staff member from having an intimate relationship with an offender and prohibits offenders in the community from removing or tampering with an electronic monitoring device without a reasonable excuse.
5. The Bill includes a number of amendments that will improve operational efficiencies for QCS and the PBQ. This includes improving transparency and accountability in decision making, improving supports for vulnerable prisoners, and removing outdated provisions.
6. The Bill supports the Government’s objective of Keep Communities Safe in Our Future State: Advancing Queensland’s Priorities and aligns to the vision in Corrections 2030.
7. The Bill continues to progress implementation of the supported recommendations from the QPSR by implementing recommendation 85 as well as the Government response to recommendation 58. It also includes amendments that support the implementation of QPSR recommendations 33, 59 and 81.
8. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Corrective Services and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 into the Legislative Assembly.
9. *Attachments*
* [Corrective Services and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)
* [Statement of Compatibility](Attachments/SoC.PDF)