

Ms WAKEFIELD: Madam Speaker, I move that the bill be referred to the Social Policy Scrutiny Committee for report by 13 March 2018.

Motion agreed to.

**INDEPENDENT COMMISSIONER AGAINST CORRUPTION BILL
(Serial 30)**

Continued from 21 November 2017.

Ms FYLES (Attorney-General and Justice): Madam Speaker, I sincerely thank all the members who have spoken. We spent most of Tuesday talking about this very important bill before the House—the Northern Territory's first ever Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Bill.

I will take some time this morning to acknowledge the comments made during people's speeches and try to answer some of the questions. I also note that this will go to consideration in detail and we have provided briefings to Independent and opposition members on the amendments coming forward. There are a number of amendments put forward by the Social Policy Scrutiny Committee as well as some typographical amendments from the department.

If a member has not had an opportunity to be briefed we can arrange that while I am summing up, or during the luncheon break, as I trust this will go on after lunch.

Territorians deserve a government they can trust. A government that puts their interests, communities and children first—the long-term interests of all Territorians not just the short-term interest of a few. Trust in government means ensuring that there is accountability. Governments and politicians should act in the public interest. If they do not and, instead, act in favour of private interests there must be repercussions.

We heard from a number of members earlier this week. The Member for Barkly, Minister McCarthy, talked about his firsthand experience in public Territory life and what has led him to the firm belief we need an ICAC. I also thank the Member for Drysdale, Minister Lawler, for her support and emphasis on an ICAC's important role in the Territory's future. The Chief Minister spoke about driving an agenda of broad transparency and openness across our government.

The Chief Minister is correct in noting that having an ICAC restores trust in government, which supports our government's efforts to drive investment in to the Territory to create more jobs. We talk about businesses and people wanting to come to the Territory—they need to know we have strong, stable government and that decisions are made fairly. Not just because somebody knows a minister or somebody has a relationship—decisions need to be made in the best interests of Territorians, and businesses need to know that they are operating in that environment.

Stability is so important. When I have met businesses and Defence—they want certainty and respect of process.

I thank the Member for Wanguri, the Deputy Chief Minister, who fights for accountability at all times. At the moment she is putting up a fight for fair funding from the Commonwealth.

The Member for Katherine has a long standing interest in international principles of good governance, and I thank her for her comments.

The Member for Brennan is passionately supporting the government's reform agenda. He is working so hard for the people of Palmerston and making sure our government is on track and participating in debates and briefings, and asking questions.

The Member for Braiting, Minister Wakefield, is working day-in and day-out to deliver integrity reforms for Territory Families and, in her portfolio, the Seniors Recognition Scheme and the NT Concession Scheme, which is the Northern Territory's most recent case of exploitation—I know there are some cases open before the court.

The Member for Casuarina, in her role as the minister for Environment—restoring trust and integrity goes right across portfolios. Territorians want to know that their environment comes first and foremost, not some dodgy decision that someone has made.