1. On 31 January 2022, the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee tabled its Report No. 22, 57th Parliament, *Inquiry into serious vilification and hate crimes* (LASC Report) in the Legislative Assembly.
2. The Report contains 17 recommendations, primarily relating to the operation of offences, the improvement of record keeping and reporting of serious vilification and hate crime, and community education and engagement.
3. The Government response to the LASC Report supported or supported in-principle each of the recommendations.
4. The Bill implements a number of key recommendations from the LASC Report requiring legislative amendment. Specifically, the Bill:
   * removes the requirement for the written consent of a Crown Law officer before commencing a prosecution for serious vilification offence under section 131A (Offence of serious racial, religious, sexuality or gender identity vilification) the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991* (AD Act)(Recommendation 7 of the LASC Report);
   * introduces a statutory circumstance of aggravation for specified offences in the Criminal Code and *Summary Offences Act 2005* (Recommendation 8 of the LASC Report);
   * relocates the offence at section 131A of the AD Act to the Criminal Code (Recommendation 9 of the LASC Report); and
   * introduces an offence capturing the public display, distribution or publication of prohibited symbols (Recommendation 16 of the LASC Report).
5. In addition to implementing the above recommendations of the LASC Report, the Bill will increase the maximum penalty for the offence at section 131A of the AD Act from 70 penalty units or six months imprisonment to three years imprisonment.
6. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Criminal Code (Serious Vilification and Hate Crimes) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 into the Legislative Assembly.
7. *Attachments*:

* [Criminal Code (Serious Vilification and Hate Crimes) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023](https://dpcqld.sharepoint.com/sites/DPC-CABINETSERVICES/Shared%20Documents/General/Proactive%20Release/ToBeProcessed/2023/Mar/CrimCodeBill/Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](https://dpcqld.sharepoint.com/sites/DPC-CABINETSERVICES/Shared%20Documents/General/Proactive%20Release/ToBeProcessed/2023/Mar/CrimCodeBill/Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)
* [Statement of Compatibility with Human Rights](https://dpcqld.sharepoint.com/sites/DPC-CABINETSERVICES/Shared%20Documents/General/Proactive%20Release/ToBeProcessed/2023/Mar/CrimCodeBill/Attachments/SoC.PDF)