



MEDIA RELEASE

HON ROBERT BROKENSHERE MLC

FAMILY FIRST
The Independent Party



THIS TIME, UPPER HOUSE CAN PASS AN ICAC BILL

Wednesday 4 March 2009

The fight against crime and corruption in South Australia has gone to another level this afternoon, with FAMILY FIRST MLC Robert Brokenshere introducing a Bill to create an Independent Commission against Corruption in South Australia.

“The significance of Family First’s move today is that there is only 1 party in South Australia opposed to an ICAC, and that is the ALP”, Mr Brokenshere said, “One has to ask why, and the answers have to come in the debate that this Bill will launch in the Upper House”

“Tackling corruption has always been at the core of what Family First is all about. Other crossbenchers and independents have had a go at ICAC in the past, and each time they tried, the Government and Opposition have knocked back their Bills on the basis that the models weren’t quite right.”

“Today’s Bill proposes a different model again, but it is an open canvas. We will have the debate, we will consider amendments, we will put them to the vote and this House will vote on this Bill”

Family First’s Bill is quite similar to the Liberals’ model, however it makes several changes:

- enabling an interstate ICAC-equivalent Commissioner to be included amongst current/former judges as a candidate as SA’s first Commissioner,
- changing the mix of the oversight committee for a greater watchdog role,
- allowing either House of Parliament to refer investigations to the ICAC; and
- restricting self-incrimination rights to ensure investigations are not thwarted by a pro-criminal legal principle

“The bill is 95% the same as the Liberals’ bill, so it should be supported– there is no basis for the Opposition to reject the Bill outright. They can then scrutinise the Government in the Lower House on why it doesn’t support an ICAC”

Mr Brokenshere indicated that he would be calling the Bill to a vote before the conclusion of this Autumn’s sittings (3/6/09).