



STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE

Members present:

Mr CG Whiting MP—Chair
Mr MJ Hart MP
Mr RI Katter MP
Mr JJ McDonald MP
Mr TJ Smith MP

Staff present:

Ms S Galbraith—Committee Secretary

PUBLIC HEARING—INQUIRY INTO THE FUNCTIONS OF THE INDEPENDENT ASSESSOR AND THE PERFORMANCE OF THOSE FUNCTIONS

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 2 MARCH 2022

Karumba

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The committee met at 9.23 am.

CHAIR: Good morning. I declare open this public hearing for the committee's inquiry into the functions of the Independent Assessor. My name is Chris Whiting. I am the member for Bancroft and chair of the committee. I respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today and pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging. We are fortunate to live in a country with two of the oldest continuing cultures in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples whose lands, winds and waters we all share.

It is a pleasure to have this parliamentary committee hearing at the Les Wilson Barramundi Discovery Centre at Karumba. It is important for us to come out and make sure that we are talking about these issues in places exactly like this. Thank you all for your hospitality and having us here.

With me today are committee members Mr Jim McDonald, deputy chair and member for Lockyer; Mr Michael Hart, member for Burleigh; Mr Tom Smith, member for Bundaberg; and Mr Robbie Katter, member for Traeger.

This hearing is a proceeding of the Queensland parliament and is subject to the parliament's standing rules and orders. Only the committee and invited witnesses may participate in the hearings. Witnesses are not required to give evidence under oath or affirmation, but I remind witnesses that intentionally misleading the committee is a serious offence. You may be filmed or photographed during proceedings and images may also appear on the parliament's website or social media pages. Please turn off your mobile phones or put them on to silent mode.

BAWDEN, Mr Jack, Mayor, Carpentaria Shire Council

CAMP, Mr Ernie, Mayor, Burke Shire Council

CRAWLEY, Mr Mark, Chief Executive Officer, Carpentaria Shire Council

MURPHY, Mr Andrew, Councillor, Carpentaria Shire Council

YOUNG, Mr Craig, Councillor, Carpentaria Shire Council

CHAIR: I now welcome the mayors and representatives of the Carpentaria Shire Council and the Burke Shire Council. I invite you to make an opening statement and after that committee members will have questions for you. This part of the hearing is about the Office of the Independent Assessor and the council complaints system. We would appreciate you telling us your stories or giving us your opinions or your experiences of this system. Who would like to go first?

Mr Bawden: I am happy to. It is probably not going to be very flattering, but these are facts from Carpentaria's point of view. To give you an example, one of our guys accidentally, inadvertently, whatever you want to call it, sat in a meeting while the school that his wife is a board member of—there was nothing monetary discussed or anything like that, it was just plain discussion. He sat in on it by mistake, mistakenly thinking that the board member who works there—I just do not believe whether they work or were a board member, if they were quite comfortable in staying there. It was my belief that the Independent Assessor was brought on board to sift through complaints and make life for the CCC a whole lot easier by processing and doing investigations and everything. I did not realise that the Independent Assessor sat, trawling through past minutes of councils. They picked up by themselves where Ashley—he was going to be here so I could publicly use his name—stayed in the meeting. There was no complaint laid. That is fine. Let that one go.

Eighteen months down the track, he was found guilty. When they rang him, he said, 'Oh, my bad. Sorry, yes, I am guilty. I did sit in on that. I am sorry about that. What do I have to do?' Eighteen months later they contacted him and said, 'You are going to be fined \$250, you have to make a public apology at a council meeting and you have to undertake training.' That is fine. He paid his \$250. He made his public apology. There has never been a date or a time frame put on him for the training.

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Then Mark informed me the other day that the Carpentaria ratepayers get a bill for \$3,800 for the investigation. I want a refund because he pleaded guilty. There was no investigation and it is wrong. It is just—I can't swear.

Mr HART: It is okay. Did it go to the CCT, Jack?

Mr Bawden: No, it did not go to the CCT, the conduct tribunal.

Mr HART: The council investigated it.

Mr Bawden: You pay the money for the conduct tribunal. He already admitted that he had done the wrong thing, that he was guilty; he participated in the meeting when he should have declared his interest. That should have been the end of it. 'Okay, you are guilty. Here is your penalty,' and they could have issued the penalty without having the tribunal go through everything and then send the council the bill.

CHAIR: We will go to some questions of Jack in a moment, but we will ask firstly, Ernie, do you want to perhaps share your story, experience or give your opinion?

Mr Camp: No particular issue in Burke as such, but why we are here is the fact that it is stifled conversation in our council meetings. We are not getting the grassroots from the residents in Burke attending with council, like fright-horse beating because it might end up in that space. Also, sometimes we are kicking the wrong people out of the room, again in fear of crossing that line. At one time it used to be that somebody who may have had association with, say, a road builder, could stay until the voting because their knowledge was valuable in what we were meeting to discuss. They were allowed to stay, give their information and were kicked out during the voting process. That no longer happens in that sense, so we are losing valuable people. The discussion on a multimillion-dollar contract for road building lasted five minutes and the purchase of a lawn mower lasted three quarters of an hour. That is the worry.

This again deals with local government and those who influence. It does seem to appear that those who are outside and organisations who put pressure on local government to if not break the law, bend the law. So if you are going to have one group scrutinised in our community, all groups should be scrutinised. Just to go back a little bit, a play on words, 'The hearing is starting', I do not want you polities to be hearing; I want you polities across the table to be listening.

CHAIR: Yes, I think the key word is 'hearing' and that is what we are here to do. I will start with a couple of questions. Jack, on this particular issue, you say it was not initiated by a complaint; that the OIA discovered this as they were investigating something else?

Mr Bawden: He was not given a reason, except the guy he was speaking to—Ashley had been in trouble before, so it was not new to him. His comment was, 'Was this an anonymous complaint or something, was it?' and the guy that was talking to him said, 'No, we picked this up ourselves going through the minutes.' That is a pretty fair indication.

CHAIR: They may have discovered it while they were looking at something else? Are you saying Ashley had a couple of other issues?

Mr Bawden: If there were no complaints laid—I do not know. It may have passed Mark. We do not get told about complaints. The CEO gets told that we have had a complaint against; we do not. I do not know. Maybe Mark can shed some light on it.

CHAIR: The costs they sent to you would have been costs from the CCT, the Councillor Conduct Tribunal?

Mr Crawley: That is correct.

CHAIR: Was there any breakdown of costs?

Mr Crawley: There was information of the people who sat on the tribunal saying, 'Attendee 1, attendee 2, attendee 3' and the costs for each one of those and then the total cost. It was the independent panel that carried out the sentencing.

CHAIR: What was Ashley's first reaction to that? He gets notified of this. Did he get any legal representation or just dealt with it?

Mr Crawley: There was a phone call that accused him of staying in the meeting. Like I said, he said, 'Yeah, I did. What do I do? What happens now? I am guilty.' He did not try to deny it.

CHAIR: One of the issues we are seeing, and it is already here, all through from your area right down to the border of New South Wales, is the conflict of interest. To the councillors in the room here, this is a path-finding exercise. You carry on employment for your other businesses?

Mr Bawden: Yes.

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CHAIR: You all work in jobs outside of this here, therefore potential conflict of interest arises?

Mr Bawden: Yes.

CHAIR: What about the training that is given here? We mentioned training. Tell me about the training you have had on this hugely important issue.

Mr Bawden: Because of COVID, our training was late. Since Ashley's misdemeanour, if you want to call it that, he has had two lots of training with the state. Is that sufficient? Has he had his training that he was told he had to do? He got the first phone call. He has not had any since he got the guilty verdict, or whatever it was, but since the misdemeanour, he has had two lots of training since then. As far as I am concerned, the training was done. For us to send a councillor away, or for the councillor himself to go away, it is the same distance as sending someone from the Gold Coast to Mackay, to put it into perspective. Townsville is eight or nine hours away. It is a big call.

CHAIR: Ernie, has the LGAQ or the local government department come out here to do any training? I am looking at training programs within your organisation and ones that are delivered to you. Are there any training programs—Mark, this may be something you can specify as well—which are delivered for you or delivered to you on this and other issues?

Mr Crawley: Jim Evans has come out to Carpentaria to do training—Jim is from the department—and Christie Mao from Townsville. They come out and run the session. The LGAQ developed a tool kit for elected members to assist in declaration of interest and conflicts of interest. It has 22 questions.

CHAIR: Just 22? I am surprised.

Mr Crawley: The administration in relation to this is an additional thing for local government. I understand where they are coming from in relation to accountability and transparency, but we have councillors who are basically declaring their interest because they go fishing because someone from the fishing comp might ask them for a donation. The amount of scrutiny that is on elected members at the moment has added a great additional burden to people who are doing this part-time. Councillors are being remunerated and they do have this responsibility in legislation, but, at the end of the day, forgetting to declare your interest on something that was in council for three minutes has caused us a \$3,900 bill. We recovered \$250. There is training, yes. Is there enough training? Probably not. Actually give us some detailed examples of what ticks the box in relation to getting out of the room.

CHAIR: Certainly in Ashley's case it might be one of those. I will hand over to Jim in a moment, but I was interested to know if you have the continual education. Do you have all your councillors do all the training?

Mr Bawden: Yes.

Mr Camp: Yes.

Mr McDONALD: Thank you, gents, for being here. I appreciate, Mayor Jack, the case study that you have given regarding Ashley. I note that the complaint occurred on 28 February 2020. It spent four months with the OIA before going to the Councillor Conduct Tribunal for 19 months. Can you tell us about the timeliness of the matter? Are there any suggestions you might have to be able to stop the process, given that he made the admission, and to have it resolved?

Mr Bawden: One of the things that I latched onto the last time we had Jim in a training session was the fact that, as a council, if there is no definite conflict of interest, as in monetary or whatever, we can put a resolution down to say, 'Hang on, we need your knowledge, stay in the room.' I can move it and somebody seconds it. That is a godsend because that means we keep that knowledge in the room where it is needed. Before that, it was a nightmare.

Mr McDONALD: Mark, with regards to this case study, because I think it is a very good one, the Torres Strait Islander group, TSIRC, in their submission made a suggestion that when something is discovered like this and the CEO can do a quick examination, an investigation and then refer the matter to the Independent Assessor with an outcome to say, 'Yes, it was,' and he has apologised, have you turned your mind to that at all? Could you give us any comments about that?

Mr Crawley: I think that would probably help. If the OIA was looking at those that were referred to them, came back to the council after—'This is what we found.' 'Yep, okay, I did it; I am guilty' and then we get a quick decision in relation to, 'Well, you breached the legislation. Here is your penalty.' Then it is done and dusted and over and done with. This one has been going for 18 months for Ashley. It takes a long time.

We have had some instances where the OIA have rung us in relation to, 'We have received a complaint. We notice that register of interest is not updated on the website.' That is an administrative problem, not a council problem. That is an administrative problem. We ring the OIA back, 'Yep, it has

been completed. It is sitting in a file. The girls just haven't uploaded it to the website yet.' 'Okay, fine. Thank you.' They jot that down. Case closed. So there are instances where it is an administrative problem, that the register on the website is not the most up-to-date one, and we work through those when the OIA rings. If there was a little bit more proactivity from the OIA in relation to, 'We have received a complaint. This is what it is. This is the context. Get the councillor on the phone.' 'Yeah, okay, I will take that one on the chin. What's my penalty?'

Mr McDONALD: In terms of not just this complaint with the \$3,800 but all complaints, all matters that are dealing with the OIA, have your councils sought independent legal advice, or has there been a cost, whether it be in staff time or independent legal advice, for all of those matters?

Mr Crawley: Not independent legal advice, no, but we have contributed to the discussion that the LGAQ has had in relation to their submissions to various groups.

Mr Camp: We sought legal advice in certain areas in regards to whether the council was at risk and (inaudible).

Mr McDONALD: So it did not cost?

Mr Camp: No.

Mr SMITH: I want to clarify the costs of over \$3,000; was that in administrative fees or legal fees?

Mr Crawley: Just through the tribunal. I can find that and let you know.

Mr SMITH: That is for the tribunal's investigation, not Mr Gallagher's personal legal fees?

Mr Crawley: The tribunal.

Mr SMITH: I ran through Mr Gallagher's CCT summary. In regards to training, he spent six terms as a councillor and says he underwent numerous amounts of training. Is the training not satisfactory?

Mr Bawden: I do not know. I probably should not add my answer to this, but my personal thought is the last lot of training that we had was quite good when Jim himself came out and the other lady. It was quite good because face to face is good. The first lot of training we had was over Zoom or Teams, whatever you want to call it, which was not successful at all. Anyone who has sat on a Teams meeting knows what I am talking about. There is just no interaction. The first one would be, no, it was inadequate, but the second one—like I was saying, I keep coming back to the second lot of training—I was happy with that.

Mr SMITH: Really the greatest concern in this particular matter is just one councillor is getting hit with this fee?

Mr Bawden: That and the fact that—it does my head in a bit when you know that there is a public entity or whatever that is supposed to be looking after your welfare or whatever and then you find out that they are not handling complaints at all. They are actually trawling, looking for—

Mr SMITH: Was that corresponded by OIA in a letter? (inaudible)

Mr Bawden: I believe it was verbal. I could check. As far as I know, it was a verbal phone call. I don't think he had any contact at all.

Mr Crawley: For a while.

Mr Bawden: For a while until he got the decision handed down.

Mr Crawley: The fact that he needed to appear before the tribunal.

Mr SMITH: You received a letter saying, 'We believe there is enough here to warrant an assessment. Please write back to us providing information.'

Mr Crawley: The tribunal expenses were cost recovery, under the legislation, which included member 1, member 2 and member 3's fees, plus superannuation.

Mr HART: You received notification from the OIA. It was a self-instigated inquiry?

Mr Crawley: We received the advice after everything had been concluded. Council receives advice from the OIA in relation to 'this needs to appear on the website and council has been found guilty'.

Mr HART: Just confirming that no complaint was made?

Mr Crawley: Not that I am aware of, no.

Mr HART: Did you have a chance to review the minutes of that meeting?

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Mr Crawley: We had gone back to the minutes, yes.

Mr HART: Is there anything in the minutes that indicates that the councillor had a conflict?

Mr Crawley: No. He did not declare his conflict of interest.

Mr HART: Is there anything in any previous minutes that identifies that he may have had a conflict with this particular thing?

Mr Crawley: Previously, yes.

Mr HART: Has he made a declaration before?

Mr Crawley: Yes.

Mr HART: The OIA took him to task because he had not made a declaration with this one, but he had made one before and it cost your council \$3,000?

Mr Crawley: \$3,800.

Mr HART: Are you aware of whether the OIA has referred anything to the CCC or vice versa?

Mr Crawley: Not that I am aware of, no. Most of the complaints that we have received in relation to the matters of interest that the councillors have on the website, so they are the ones—a couple in relation to councillors remaining in the room, that they have declared their interest, so it is just the way that people are interpreting and reading the minutes. The other thing in relation to this is the length of time that it takes. That is the thing that is also a complaint from council; the amount of time it takes to have something assessed. So if you pick something up, you confirm that it is wrong, you ring the councillor, 'Yeah, okay. I have done the wrong thing?' 'Okay. Here is your penalty. It will be come in the mail.' Then it goes up on a website. It is all declared, everyone is aware of it, and they can do that over two or three months. We do not have to wait later.

Mr HART: Has your council ever been investigated by the CCC or are you in any investigation at the moment?

CHAIR: Just be careful.

Mr Crawley: Not that I am aware of it

Mr HART: No, it is a question of a witness.

Mr Camp: Probably will be after today.

Mr Crawley: Some of the matters that go before councils—while there is something in the record for—we will use the old Christian college, for example: there could be something where they submitted a building application to build a shed and it is of 'for noting', so the council notes that the application has been received. Because it is in the agenda, Ashley should declare his interest, detail that his wife is a member of the board, hop up and leave the room. In 48 seconds after he closes the door, we can tell him to come back in because someone has moved and seconded that we actually note the report.

Mr HART: In a case like that, would you normally, in the past, have sought advice from the Integrity Commissioner about the process that should be followed? The Integrity Commissioner can give you advice. If you follow it, it is a legal defence. Are you aware of that?

Mr Crawley: Yes. We are aware that that offer is there from the OIA in relation to seeking advice.

Mr HART: In the Integrity Commission, not the OIA?

Mr Crawley: Yes.

Mr KATTER: After going to these hearings, and then back in my patch now, you are reflecting on things like your job primarily in council is to give strategic direction on road spending and do new projects and trying to get your head across that. I imagine you want to spend 90 to 100 per cent of your time on that. There is all this talk of training and I think that is what the department's intention will be, that you will get framed up and there is a notice so that he actually does not do this again.

Mr Crawley: Yes.

Mr KATTER: I would be interested to get your feedback in the context of is there value in the OIA in terms of two things: how much of time and effort from councillors, who are mostly part-time, gets invested in this instead of the strategic stuff you are supposed to be doing. How much time does it take out of what should be your primary role? Secondly, what impact is this having? I would be interested to hear from the councillors, too, as to what the incentive is then to do another term or what is your conversation with other people thinking about running? Everyone can have a go at that.

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Mr Young: I would agree with what you say there as far as, given that the whole process from my observation is so untidy, lengthy and just generally messy, it certainly does give cause for consideration for two things: as Ernie said, be careful of what you say, and also do you even bother running again and putting yourself through that sort of thing unnecessarily?

Mr Murphy: I have the same opinion as Councillor Young has brought up. I have been thinking: is it worth me running again while I am running a business in town? There are a lot of conflicts all the time, and it is always on my mind. There will be that many people who have to excuse themselves that we will not have a quorum. Then what do you do? It is going to delay simple decisions and send people reports. It is hard enough to do the right thing—not hard enough, but you are worried about; it is a big factor. When you know there are people just waiting to jump on you for a minor offence and it is going to cost you, yeah, it is a bit of what do you do?

Mr HART: Do the two mayors feel the same way?

Mr Crawley: Yes.

Mr Bawden: Yes. The other thing is, I think I probably should make the point that in these little places, if you are a councillor, you usually are the publican or the plumber and you are mixed up in football and swimming and you do everything. That is where the problem is compounded greatly because everybody has an interest and it could be—you know what I mean? It makes it really hard.

Mr Murphy: Your wife could be the treasurer of the swimming club which has happened to me. It is something silly, like you have to declare an interest. It is a not for a profit; they are not gaining anything.

Mr KATTER: Can I tease that out because that is one issue, but then also how much does that take up your time or thought space? You are plumbing and then you get back out on the council and know what you have to do, and then the thoughts base now is changed to worrying more about the integrity stuff than your council job?

Mr Murphy: It plays a big part in it. I love it. I am probably more paranoid of people, but I just try to do the right thing. You want to do the right thing for your community and it plays on your mind. I have excused myself before, even though I might not intend on doing this particular job for council, but I do not want someone to make a claim that I am doing the wrong thing. The council is missing out on multiple things. That is the thing that council does. Ernie mentioned it before, the same thing, that there is a vital role that people can play and they cannot have input; they have to leave the room.

Mr Crawley: One issue I could find with this is the elected members needing to declare their interest and then the delegation comes to the chief executive. The chief executive is left with the delegated authority from the council to decide the matter. It could be something that is really burning from the community and the community want their elected representatives to make that decision. That is where we are eventually going to get to with this, because people will have that much of a conflict, they are going to declare it, they are going to leave the room, and either no decision will be made because they will not allocate it, and that is where I think we will end up.

Mr HART: What should happen to the OIA then?

Mr Bawden: With the OIA?

Mr HART: Yes.

CHAIR: It is a broad question.

Mr McDONALD: It is a good question. It is a question I generally ask.

Mr Bawden: It is a really good question. I am not saying that they are not necessary, but I think, like all forms of state government, there has to be an understanding that one size does not fit all. I can understand the OIA and the CCC and all the rest of it in big cities where you have developers and everyone is madly running around and trying to get favours and whatever you want to call them, but in these little places, Ernie and I dream about having a developer approach us. That is one of our wildest dreams! It just does not happen and it is crippling.

Mark and I often talk and we say everyone gets a free shot. If you want to make a complaint, you can, and you are entitled to, at no charge. Next month, you can reword it and you can make the same complaint again, but there are no penalties. They are free shots every time. That is loading the OIA up, for a start. It is also putting a councillor under the limelight, the spotlight or whatever. It is unfair. How are you supposed to run a business—and that is what we are—elected members are just a bloody guardian to the vault, if you like. I am not saying the OIA should not be there. I am just saying that there should be reality put around the way they operate.

Mr Camp: As Mark identified there, everybody has a conflict of interest, especially on a politically sensitive issue and it is handed back to the CEO because it is politically charged. I would rather that that not rest with the CEO, I would rather that rest with the minister. You are a sitting duck for that fella over there as a target.

Mr KATTER: I am trying to think who has been around the longest. I will put my question to all of you. What would be your view on—at the heart of this is trying to tidy up corruption or misbehaviour in councils—10 years ago, 15 years ago in the processes that were there then to now; has it improved? Has it cleaned up the system out here, or has it played a role? Has it been of any benefit, this enhanced scrutiny, in your opinion, to tidying up the behaviour of councillors?

Mr Camp: This might be a spiteful conversation. No doubt something had to get done in some areas, but depending on what level is seen by the general public out there—your supporters, your constituents—seeing people work voluntary or involuntary or what level is guilty, then I see it as guilty at different levels because they seem as guilty. Hence the stigma state could stay with somebody at the time. You just have to be a little bit more careful on how you rate that area because stigma does stay with you, or could stay with you.

Mr SMITH: I would like to go back to the Councillor Gallagher case because I think it opens up more questions that we can ask the OIA. What was the development application for?

Mr Crawley: It was a building application or a town planning application, from memory.

Mr SMITH: That was on campus. That would have been purchased in—

Mr Bawden: There was no value in it for anyone in the room, as such. We might be able to get back to you on that.

Mr SMITH: That would be good. The other one is: obviously there are concerns about the council have not paid administrative costs of the CCT, but in this particular matter the OIA was incorrect, were they? We might have some questions about how they came to find the allegations, but in terms of what they found, to the letter of the law, the OIA were satisfactory in their work, were they not?

Mr Bawden: Yes.

Mr Crawley: It was reconfiguration of a lot and an amalgamation of two lots. It was a simple town planning application—Gulf Christian College owned both lots and amalgamated the two.

CHAIR: On the issue we talked about once again, the conflict of interest, Mayor Jack, you made the point that obviously you are not going to get issues with regards to assessing developers, for example. Are the issues about the work the council does and the contracts the council does within the community? That seems to be the biggest issue or—I will not say 'trap'. The greatest thing you need to be aware of in terms of these integrity and conduct issues is making sure that, with business dealings, everything is being done according to the law. That would be the biggest issue with contracts going forward, would it? Have I got that right?

Mr Bawden: Yes.

Mr Camp: Yes.

CHAIR: I just wanted to confirm that.

Mr McDONALD: Mayor Jack, you raised a really good point that regularly people are elected after being involved in the community, whether it be swimming clubs or Rugby League clubs, and the community knows you and your involvement in the community regulates why you are elected. Likewise, I would be interested in your comment, the community will know if you are doing the wrong thing. Is that a fair comment?

Mr Bawden: Yes.

Mr McDONALD: Would you like to expand on that?

Mr Bawden: In a small town, everybody knows everyone else's business.

Mr McDONALD: For the record, can you tell us what your population is at Carpentaria?

Mr Bawden: Carpentaria has a population of about 1,800.

Mr McDONALD: What about yourself?

Mr Camp: Burke has a population a little bit smaller than that—somewhere in the 300s.

Mr McDONALD: There you go. Are people lining up for your job?

Mr Camp: Why did you think I ran unopposed?

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CHAIR: Back on the point where we talked about, for example, related persons. For example, I have just had a look here. It is defined: 'this is a related person'. If you are the patron of that organisation, that intense conflict of interest is not there, the prescribed interest is not there, but certainly if the related person is an office bearer in the organisation.

Mr Murphy: That is right.

CHAIR: You could be patron and not need to go through this rigmarole. If your wife is the treasurer, you need to take care.

Mr Bawden: Crazy, isn't it?

CHAIR: There being no further questions, gents, is there anything you would like to say before we wrap up this part of the session?

Mr Bawden: No. Thank you for putting us on your radar. We thank our Traeger representative. It is appreciated. It is good to know you come up to the smart part of the world sometimes.

CHAIR: It is a real pleasure being here and it is an important part of committee work that we travel widely and listen to people and hear people from all over the state. It is hugely important to us as well.

Mr McDONALD: Chair, before you close, I think it is important to say thanks very much for having us here, Jack. This is the first public inquiry in Karumba by the state parliament.

CHAIR: As you would have heard, this has been operating under the standing orders of parliament, so you have had a little slice of parliament happening here today in Karumba. There are no questions on notice. The time for this session has expired. I will close this session. Thank you very much, gentlemen.

The committee adjourned at 10.04 am.