



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard 3 December 1999

PRIVILEGE

Destruction of Documents, Hervey Bay Office of Department of Families

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central— ALP) (Premier) (9.30 a.m.): Yesterday the honourable member of Caboolture accused the Government of destroying copies of a document. Members may recall the question he asked me. The matter concerns a report called "Items of Interest to SAAP Services in the Central Region from the Ministerial Advisory Arrangement". The report was circulated by a member of the Ministerial Advisory Arrangement at a meeting of central Queensland SAAP representatives on 29 September 1999. I am advised that the majority of the report was factual material; however, a number of pages of jokes, including obscene and sexist jokes, were added by the particular member of the Ministerial Advisory Arrangement, who has now indicated that he will not be seeking reappointment to the ministerial council to begin early next year.

I should make the point that those jokes were vulgar, and every member of this House would have found them vulgar and offensive. That person is not an employee of the Queensland Government. The added material was not endorsed or condoned by either the Government or the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care. The Minister has asked all funded services to destroy the material to prevent anyone else from being offended. The Government would not consider, nor does it have the authority to direct independent organisations to destroy information in the report. The whole report has not been destroyed, only the insensitive and offending material which, as I said, all members of this House would have found to be offensive and vulgar.
