




Speech By
Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

Record of Proceedings, 19 November 2013

ETHICS COMMITTEE

Report

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (9.56 am), by leave: I lay upon the table Ethics Committee report No. 139, titled *Matter of privilege referred by the registrar on 19 March 2013 relating to an alleged failure of a member to register interests in the Register of Members' Interest and Register of Related Persons' Interest and matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 4 June 2013 relating to an alleged deliberate misleading of the House by a member*.

Tabled paper: Ethics Committee: Report No. 139—Matter of privilege referred by the registrar on 19 March 2013 relating to an alleged failure of a member to register interests in the Register of Members' Interest and Register of Related Persons' Interest and matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 4 June 2013 relating to an alleged deliberate misleading of the House by a member [4008].

This report concerns two matters of privilege that relate to the member for Redcliffe, Mr Scott Driscoll MP. Madam Speaker will recall that on 31 July 2013 the committee advised the House in interim report No. 134 that it had resolved to recommence its inquiry into these matters. The committee had previously suspended its inquiries into these matters on the basis that the matters were related to parallel criminal investigations being conducted by the Crime and Misconduct Commission and/or the Queensland Police Service.

Since recommencing these inquiries, the committee has worked diligently towards their finalisation while, at the same time, seeking to ensure that all parties to the matters were afforded procedural fairness. This task was made all the more challenging due to the limited participation in the committee's processes by the member for Redcliffe on medical grounds. The committee was careful to seek advice from the member's medical specialists, with the member's consent, where appropriate, throughout the process.

The material before the committee was extensive and the issues to be considered were complex in nature. Accordingly, the committee gave very detailed consideration to the material and deliberated on it, at length, over the past four months. In conducting its inquiries, the committee considered the two matters referred to it as separate matters and the committee reached its findings in relation to each matter, based on the merits of the individual matter.

Whilst treating the two matters of privilege separately, the committee was aware that the matters were closely related. Having arrived at its findings in respect of each matter, the committee reached the conclusion that the cumulative effect of its findings was so serious as to have a bearing on the honour and dignity of the Legislative Assembly. The committee was very conscious of its role in setting the standards that the Queensland community expects of its members of parliament and the significance of the precedent value set by its final recommendations.

In drafting its report, the committee took advice from the CMC to ensure that this report would in no way jeopardise the CMC's related investigations and any legal processes that might flow from those investigations. In addition, the committee sought independent legal advice to confirm the legal

correctness of the processes it followed, its ultimate findings and its recommendations to the Legislative Assembly.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank the CMC, Mr Driscoll's medical specialist and Mr Peter Davis QC for the advice and assistance provided to the committee throughout the course of the inquiry. I also thank the other members of the committee for the way they have worked in sifting through the complex evidence presented to it, in applying that evidence to the elements of the charges of contempt before them, and in arriving at a considered and balanced consensus in relation to the findings and recommendations. I commend the report and the committee's recommendations to the House.