



Speech By  
**Patrick Weir**


**MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE**

---

Record of Proceedings, 17 March 2016

**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

**Report, Motion to Take Note**

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (3.33 pm): I rise as a member of the Finance and Administration Committee to make a contribution to the debate on the *Inquiry into the report on the strategic review of the functions of the Integrity Commissioner*. As has already been mentioned by the member for Bulimba and the member for Broadwater, there was really one issue that demanded most of our time and generated the most interest in this report, and that was recommendation No. 7 by Professor Peter Coaldrake concerning the definition of lobbyists. He stated—

The definition of lobbyists should be expanded to include regulation of in-house lobbyists and other professionals discharging the lobbying function.

Section 41 of the act defines the meaning of lobbyist as follows—

A lobbyist is an entity that carries out a lobbying activity for a third party client or whose employees or contractors carry out a lobbying activity for a third party client.

That generated a lot of discussion about whether a lobbyist is actually a lobbyist or an advocacy group. We received a number of submissions from various organisations which you would call advocacy groups such as Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland, Local Government Association of Queensland, Property Council of Australia, Clubs Queensland and Master Electricians Australia. They were very opposed to broadening the definition of 'lobbyist'. The committee as a whole also had some reservation about expanding the term 'lobbyist'. As the member for Broadwater mentioned in her address regarding the publication of ministerial diaries, all ministers know the process they have to go through when they engage in conversations with a lobbyist. To expand that definition to organisations like Clubs Queensland and others really would have been taking it a step too far. At the end of our deliberations—and it was unanimous—the committee decided that the current lobbyist regulatory regime was adequate and more than covered the role of lobbyists. This was really the one issue that took up our time.

'There have been a couple of changes on the Finance and Administration Committee, and I would like to thank the member for Bulimba for her contribution to the Finance and Administration Committee during her time as chair. I would also acknowledge the contribution of the member for Broadwater. Her contribution was always valued, particularly if there were any grammatical errors in our reports. None of them got past her scrutiny. I would also like to thank the research director Deborah Jeffrey and other secretariat staff, as that support crew has changed as well. I welcome our new chair Peter Russo, the member for Sunnybank, and Tony Perrett, the member for Gympie, to the Finance and Administration Committee.