




Speech By  
**Patrick Weir**

**MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE**

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Record of Proceedings, 2 March 2017

**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE: REPORT, MOTION TO TAKE  
NOTE**

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (12.13 pm): I rise to support the deputy chair of the Finance and Administration Committee, the member for Mermaid Beach, in his statements about this inquiry. I was on the Finance and Administration Committee until about two weeks ago. During my time on the committee we have had many, many large bills to work through, as you, Madam Deputy Speaker Farmer, would know—such as workers compensation, IR and protecting firefighters legislation. We did the inquiry into four-year terms. That was a massive bill and, as Madam Deputy Speaker knows very well, we travelled the state extensively. We did the inquiry into ending sandmining on Stradbroke island. That was also a very large and emotive bill.

One would suggest that every one of those bills would fit under the Finance and Administration Committee's jurisdiction. It was a bit of a surprise when we got this inquiry into combat sports. I am not sure how that was referred to the Finance and Administration Committee in the first place. It became very apparent that there was very little in this. As has been mentioned, we only had eight submissions for this inquiry. That is a record low for anything that I have seen in my time on committees here. It generated a surprising lack of enthusiasm. When the department were questioned about the impetus behind this, they could provide no answer. They had not been approached by sporting groups or organisations. There had been no public push for this. This inquiry basically came out of the clear blue sky.

**Mr Stevens:** Thought bubble.

**Mr WEIR:** A thought bubble—that is very well said. As the member for Gregory talked about, we see injuries in a wide range of sports which makes me wonder how this inquiry just identified combat sports. There are probably more injuries in football than there are in boxing or combat sports. Look at—

**Mr Millar:** Look at me!

**Mr WEIR:** Horse racing is another. We see deaths of jockeys. We see some terrible injuries. There has also been a spate of deaths in scuba diving on the Barrier Reef in recent times. You can understand an inquiry into that to see what is happening there. It is costing lives.

This inquiry was going nowhere and we decided that the committee had much better things to do with its time in dealing with serious issues than looking at this. As the member for Mermaid Beach has said, every one of these inquiries costs. It costs government. It costs members time. The research teams all come together to work on an inquiry that nobody had any interest in whatsoever. I can think of many, many issues that we could run other than this.

The member for Gregory mentioned the famous Fred Brophy. We had Fred Brophy's boxing tent at the Clifton show two weeks ago. It had a huge following. It ran for two nights and it was packed. During the public inquiry into combat sports, I asked a question of the department: would it have any impact on the likes of Fred Brophy? They said that it would close him down. He would have to comply with all of these restrictions and that would be the end of him.

**Mr Costigan:** An icon.

**Mr WEIR:** An icon, a legend in Australia. I had the opportunity to talk to some of the boxers in Fred's troupe while we were at the Clifton show. I can tell members that they were very aware of this inquiry and they were very concerned about it. They did not need me to tell them what this was about.

**Mr Costigan** interjected.

**Mr WEIR:** They did. We could find no justification for this inquiry. Our time is well served in many other areas. I am happy to support my colleagues and the member for Bundamba in declaring that we had done enough on this. We have better things to do with our time than worry about this.