




Speech By
Peter Russo

MEMBER FOR SUNNYBANK

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ADJOURNMENT

Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committee Conference

 **Mr RUSSO** (Sunnybank—ALP) (11.02 pm): Madam Deputy Speaker, between 19 and 21 April 2017, as you are aware, the Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committee held its 14th biennial ACPAC conference. Firstly, thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker, for your participation. I would like to thank the Speaker for welcoming the delegates to the conference and Neil Laurie, the Clerk of the Parliament, for his participation. I would also like to thank Ray Stevens, the member for Mermaid Beach and deputy chair of the Finance and Administration Committee; Steve Minnikin, the member for Chatsworth; and Linus Power, the member for Logan, for their participation.

ACPAC was formed in 1989 and provides a unique forum for the exchange of information and opinions relating to public accounts committees, providing committees with the opportunity to share experiences, best practice and matters of mutual interest. Its aim is to improve the quality and performance of public accounts committees, particularly in Australasia.

I thank Amanda Honeyman, Nicola Ryan, Deb Jeffrey, Katie Shalders, Yasmin Asburner, Joanne Walther, Christine Knight, Janette van den Berg, Zac Dadic for taking the group photo and Louise Whitlock for helping to design the program. I thank the catering team for putting on such lovely meals and accommodating several last-minute changes to meal requests. I thank the finance team for assisting with fees and refunds when required. I thank the attendants and security teams for assisting with getting in and out of the building. The tours of our parliament and this great building where we come to make Queensland a better place were enjoyed by all—and I must say that I learn something new about parliament every time I have the opportunity to join in on a tour, so I say a big thankyou to them.

Finally, I say a big thankyou to my fellow Finance and Administration Committee members for their participation. I must give a shout out to the member for Lytton, Joan Pease, and the member for Kallangur, Shane King, for helping to entertain the conference delegates at the welcoming barbecue—so thank you to my parliamentary colleagues.

The program ran over two days and included discussions on, to name a few: 'Strategic reviews of auditors-general offices'; 'Parliamentary public accounts oversight—holding PACs to account'; 'Following up on audit reports—how can parliamentary oversight add value?'; 'Beyond the audit inter-agency cooperation to maintain integrity'; and 'Parliamentarians v politicians'.

Whilst many of the delegates come from Australia, there were members from New Zealand, Fiji, South Africa and India. The greatest thing about the conference was the depth of experience that was in the room and the willingness for the presenters to impart their knowledge. I personally learnt a lot over the two days and left the conference with renewed confidence and equipped with ideas of how I can strive to be a better chair.

(Time expired)