



Speech By  
**Cynthia Lui**


**MEMBER FOR COOK**

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## **INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

### **Report, Motion to Take Note**

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (3.42 pm): I rise this afternoon to make a contribution to the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee's report titled *Consideration of the Auditor-General's report 1: 2017-18—Follow-up of report 15: 2013-14 environmental regulation of the resources and waste industries*. I would like to thank the chair of the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee, the member for Stretton, Duncan Pegg MP, and the other committee members. I would also like to thank the committee secretariat for their ongoing contribution and support throughout this year. It has been a very valuable experience as a first-time MP and I would like to give them that acknowledgement.

I would also like to acknowledge the Minister for Environment, the Hon. Leeanne Enoch, for all of her hard work and commitment to making Queensland a better place for everyone to live. I think this year, coming in as a first-term MP, I have experienced a lot of strong policies that the Palaszczuk government has stood behind. For me, this is just one of the many strong, progressive policies that we want to see that will make a positive influence in the society in which we live today.

The role of the Auditor-General is to provide parliament with independent assurance of public sector accountability and performance, and I have taken on board all of the different contributions this afternoon. The member for Broadwater mentioned having a balance. This is exactly what this legislation is about. It is about having a positive and good balance for all Queenslanders. It is about protecting the environment.

I would like to make special mention of Rio Tinto, which I have visited twice this year, which has good land rehabilitation practices in place. What it means for the local community is that it creates jobs, and it gives people living in that part of the world the opportunity to take care of the environment. How I see it working is that there is a mining industry which has the potential to provide an opportunity for local people in the community to be part of the rehabilitation of the land. What this means long term is that, when we take care of the land, the land will take care of us. That is something that I stand passionately behind.

The performance audit evaluates whether an agency or government program is achieving its objectives effectively, economically and efficiently and is compliant with relevant legislation. To again use Rio Tinto as an example, it is about making sure that industries are kept accountable. When we use the resources that are available for economic gain, we will be protecting our long-term and future interest as well.

There are a number of things to consider. I note that resources activities can also cause environmental harm that may be irreversible or take years to rectify. In the western cape I have seen huge areas of landscape being cleared for the sake of mining, but at the same time we have to consider the natural habitat of that region. It means looking after biodiversity. It means looking after nature. It

means looking after the people in that community and, in return, it will give back to the state and the economy. I am grateful for the opportunity to stand up and make my contribution in the House. I hope to see positive things come out of this legislation.