




Speech By  
**Peter Russo**  
MEMBER FOR TOOHEY

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Record of Proceedings, 20 September 2018

## LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

### Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (3.23 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report No. 13 titled *Oversight of the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman* tabled on 21 June 2018.

I rise to speak about the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's oversight report on the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman. The report provides information regarding the performance by the Queensland Ombudsman of his statutory functions and the committee's examination of the Ombudsman's annual report 2016-17, which was tabled on 29 September 2017.

The committee's jurisdiction in respect of the Ombudsman requires the committee to monitor and review the performance by the Ombudsman of his statutory functions. The committee is also required to examine each annual report of the Ombudsman's office. The committee must report to the House on any changes to the functions, structures and procedures of the office that the committee considers desirable.

In conducting its oversight the committee met with the Ombudsman, Mr Phil Clarke, and his staff and toured the Ombudsman's office to understand its day-to-day operations. The committee was impressed to observe improvements in the system functionality designed to adapt to changes in workload that are being generated by the office now receiving more public interest disclosures. The committee was also pleased to observe ongoing efforts to modernise and streamline complaint-handling procedures.

The committee held a public oversight hearing with the Ombudsman and his officers on 30 April and received answers to a number of questions on notice. Both the hearing transcript and the answers to questions on notice are available on the committee's web page. At the oversight hearing the committee took advice from Mr Clarke on a number of matters pertinent to the running of his office including anticipated challenges for the office for the immediate future, interactions with other integrity agencies like the Crime and Corruption Commission, and the correlation between training given to agencies and departments and the type and number of complaints that are subsequently received about such agencies.

On behalf of the committee I thank Mr Clarke and his staff, who assisted the committee with its oversight role. I also thank the secretariat and the members of the committee for their assistance. I commend the report to the House.