




Speech By
Bart Mellish

MEMBER FOR ASPLEY

Record of Proceedings, 24 October 2019

TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (3.28 pm): I rise to speak to the report titled *Examination of Auditor-General report No. 1: 2018-19—Monitoring and managing ICT projects*. The committee received a public briefing from the Queensland Audit Office on 29 October 2018 and the Department of Housing and Public Works at that public hearing. The committee also wrote to DHPW and all departments seeking an update on various matters earlier this year in relation to this report. That was specifically in relation to progress on the implementation of the Auditor-General's recommendations. Responses were received from all departments.

The Auditor-General made a range of recommendations and the parliamentary committee examined those recommendations. Those recommendations included enhancing the ICT dashboard and updating the publishing guidelines by working with departments to publish one set of agreed criteria and supporting guidelines to be used by all departments; requiring departments to include more information about key decisions and corrective actions for projects that changed significantly; and strengthening whole-of-government assurance frameworks that currently complement departmental processes for monitoring ICT projects by a range of measures.

The report also contains recommendations for all departments. Those include implementing efficient and automated processes for collecting, collating, approving and publishing dashboard data; publishing data to the dashboard that is consistent with the QGCIO publishing criteria and guidelines; and providing sufficient detail in the explanatory notes when changes are made to the scope, time or budget of projects. The Auditor-General also made recommendations in relation to using learnings from project health checks and gate reviews and monitoring and managing programs and projects.

From those recommendations, the Auditor-General concluded that the Queensland government has improved the government's process for ICT projects and programs since 2013 and that the QGCIO has designed the ICT dashboard and made it available to the public and has also implemented some additional investment and assurance review processes. The Auditor-General also concluded that the ICT dashboard enables transparency about the number and planned cost of major projects across the department.

It was a fairly short and concise inquiry. I thank officers of the Queensland Audit Office and the Department of Housing and Public Works for attending the public hearing that the committee held. I thank the committee staff for their work on making the report and facilitating the hearings. I thank all committee members for the positive manner in which they conducted discussions and, of course, I thank the committee chair.