



Speech By  
**Colin Boyce**


**MEMBER FOR CALLIDE**

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Record of Proceedings, 24 October 2019

**TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

**Report, Motion to Take Note**

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (3.31 pm): I rise to make some comments about report No. 28 of the Transport and Public Works Committee titled *Examination of Auditor-General report No. 1: 2018-19—Monitoring and managing ICT projects*. Firstly, I would like to acknowledge my fellow committee members: Mr Ted Sorenson, Mr Robbie Katter, Mrs Jo-Ann Miller, Mr Shane King and Mr Bart Mellish. While I have Mr Bart Mellish in my sights, I remind him that the LNP has endorsed Mrs Amanda Cooper as the LNP candidate for Aspley. Although I do not want to pre-empt the outcome of the upcoming election, I suggest that it is the beginning of the end for the current member for Aspley.

The Auditor-General's report notes that the ICT dashboard is to make it easy to see at a glance all significant ICT projects and how they are tracking. The Auditor-General's office identified 32 projects with a total planned expenditure of \$161.4 million that were not on the IT dashboard. There was no consistency in the data currency across the sector. The main reason for that was that each department had its own process to manage and monitor reports. There was inconsistency in how the departments reported the various attributes of their projects, including publishing only those projects with approved budgets, which can be for one year or the entire project; publishing programs and not projects within the program; and reporting time and cost information on the stages of a project rather than the whole project. The QAO further found that whole-of-government and departmental governing bodies were not using the information that was available on the ICT dashboard and assurance processes to increase the success rate of ICT programs and projects by minimising repeating past mistakes.

I find that a worrying process. I am not up to date with technology, but I find it most amazing that government departments are not across what they should be in doing these sorts of projects. Obviously, the committee examined this issue and stated in its report that the rate at which technology is becoming outdated makes it a problem for people to keep up. The committee noted comments regarding the difficulty in retaining highly skilled personnel. There needs to be a lot of work done in that space to make sure that the millions of dollars that taxpayers invest in IT technology is being used properly.

I close with commenting on the most important statement in the whole report, which is—

The importance of plain English, clear and concise project journey information, in line with published guidance.

To me, that is the most important statement in the whole report. It is possibly why ICT projects and all of this technology is not being used properly—because people simply cannot understand how to use it.