




Speech By
Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

Record of Proceedings, 24 October 2019

TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (3.40 pm): I too rise to give some commentary in relation to report No. 28 of the Transport and Public Works Committee. I will cut to the chase here in relation to this audit report and turn to page 5, 2.32, the audit conclusions, and quote directly from the report—

QAO found that there are several weaknesses with the completeness and controls over the accuracy of the content within the dashboard, resulting in reduced user confidence in its reliability.

I think that pretty much says it all. Just as oil and water do not mix, neither do IT and the ALP. There is a fundamental flaw every time these IT geniuses are in charge of an ICT platform across all the silo management that they oversee. Something does not compute. Back in 2013 the member for Mudgeeraba introduced very sensible reform when it came to public administration in this state after the failed efforts of the previous Bligh government coterie of ministers that absolutely had at its heart ICT overruns galore, with the absolute mothership of all ICT blowouts, which has been covered adequately on this side of the chamber—and who could forget it—the \$1.25 billion health blowout. I think I read somewhere it almost worked out to be more inexpensive if they gave virtually every employee in the state Public Service their own PC and MYOB package. That is how much it blew out, as the member for Burleigh said, from about \$24 million to \$1.2538 billion or thereabouts. Absolutely hopeless!

Labor's track record when it comes to IT is infamous. We are aware that Paul Lucas was popping champagne corks, waiting to say, 'Yep, good enough. Let's go live.' ICT may be a bit new to some. Some of us absolutely love it. The reality is this: dashboards are important. At the very heart of it, what it comes down to is abject waste: waste of not just millions but potentially billions.

If I go to the preface of the report, the chair has said as part of his foreword—

The committee is satisfied that departments are taking appropriate action to address the Auditor-General's recommendations and has recommended that the Legislative Assembly notes the contents of this report.

How? It is not defined in the report exactly how that committee is absolutely satisfied that we will not have a continuation of the scoping blowout with ICT. It does not address that anywhere. It is a bit of bedside reading. It did not take too long to read this particular audit report. The pages contained within the cover to the end page are damning. At the end of the day the situation is that many whole-of-government ICT report systems have absolutely failed on any measured scorecard.

A lot of people on the other side of the chamber like to harp on about what they did in their previous union careers. Dashboards have always played a very quick ready reckoner role in many private sector areas of expertise. The fact of the matter is this: if they are used wisely they save time, quality and cost—that famous triangle that you learn literally a block to my immediate left at QUT with any basic undergraduate business course. Is it any wonder that we have had abject failures when it comes to health and the rail fail? It does not matter what system or what department, the Labor Party,

with its silo managerial practices, has no clue when it comes to the importance of dashboards and ICT. We had the genius member, the transport minister, try to launch a new ticketing system only 48 hours ago but was let down by an IT issue in track signalling. At the end of the day, as I said at the start, it is akin to oil trying to mix with water—the two do not compute. This report is damning and I refuse to simply accept it.