




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 11 August 2020

MOTION

Member for Everton, Finding of Contempt

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.44 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That this House—

1. notes the Ethics Committee report No. 200, tabled in the House today;
2. finds the member for Everton in contempt for his actions on 16 October 2018 in breaching standing order 271 by debating in the House a matter referred to the Ethics Committee that had not been reported on at that time;
3. notes the member for Everton's apology given in matters of public interest today;
4. determines under section 38 (Decisions on contempt) of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 that the member for Everton's conduct be now dealt with by this House as a contempt; and
5. accepts the recommendation of Ethics Committee report No. 200 that the member for Everton's apology for his conduct is adequate and the appropriate and final penalty in accordance with section 39—Assembly's power to deal with contempt—of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001.

In briefly speaking to the motion, can I state that the member for Everton has been a member of this House for approximately 3,062 days and has served in a number of capacities. He is certainly no newbie to this chamber. He is one of the senior members of his party and he should understand by now the rules and orders of this place. It is therefore unfortunate and disappointing that the member for Everton does not understand the standing rules and orders of the Legislative Assembly, even the basic ones about not talking about a matter that has been referred to the Ethics Committee. The Ethics Committee stated—

It appears the Member for Everton was under a mistaken belief that SO 271 distinguishes between matters that are substantive, and those that are merely procedural.

It goes on to further state—

Despite the Member for Everton's apparent mistaken belief, the committee is satisfied that by asking a question related to the ongoing Ethics Committee investigation, the Member for Everton was seeking to debate the matter in the House.

The Ethics Committee further went on to state—

The committee therefore considers that raising the matter that was before the committee, and referencing the CCC media release and press conference in such a way as the Member did, was likely to amount to an improper interference with the free exercise of the authority and functions of the Ethics Committee.

The Ethics Committee has recommended a finding of contempt be made against the member for Everton as despite his mistaken belief he has breached standing order 271. We all know that the member for Everton is no stranger to making statements in this House that offend the standing rules and orders. We only have to remember 15 September 2015 when he made an unparliamentary comment, proceeded to say, 'I will stand here and state on the Bible I did not say that word.', and then later in the evening crept into the chamber under the cover of darkness to withdraw his statements. It is unfortunate that the member for Everton has not learnt from his mistakes.

I commend the Ethics Committee report No. 200 where the member for Everton has been found in contempt of breaching the standing orders of the House and I note his apology.