




Speech By
Michael Hart

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2021

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Burleigh Pavilion; World Teachers' Day

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (3.14 pm): I have said this in the House previously but let me say it again in case members have not heard it: I am opposed to any changes to the state government lease for the Burleigh Pavilion in Burleigh Heads that would allow it to become a hotel. In recent weeks the proponent of the site has made a rather clumsy attempt to influence my opposition to this change. I have taken advice from the Clerk of the Parliament and the Integrity Commissioner on this matter. Following that advice, I will be writing to the Crime and Corruption Commission in coming days. I disclose this today because it has come to my attention that the minister for natural resources is considering his department's advice on changing the state lease on the site to allow a hotel—

Mr RYAN: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There has been a fair bit of commentary in recent times around the public airing of matters that are being referred to the Crime and Corruption Commission. I seek your ruling on whether the member is straying into areas that he should not be approaching given that he has just acknowledged in his remarks that he is referring this matter to the Crime and Corruption Commission.

Mr BLEIJIE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In response to that point of order, there is nothing in the standing orders—not an ounce—that prevents a member of this House from raising an issue that he or she may want to refer or that is even the subject of a Crime and Corruption Commission investigation. That has been confirmed at estimate hearing after estimate hearing on the budgets. There is nothing in the standing orders that prevents a member from speaking about what they may wish to do with the Crime and Corruption Commission.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): There is no point of order. I ask the member on his feet to proceed.

Mr HART: As I was saying, I disclose this today because it has come to my attention that the minister for natural resources is considering his department's advice on changing the state lease on the site to allow for a hotel. The site has always been meant for public amenity space in the form of a swimming pool and very limited commercial activities allowed to fund that public amenity. As it stands, the lease is very clear. It states—

The lessee must use the leased land for commercial/business purposes, namely for swimming pool, kiosk, restaurant and associated health facility purpose and for no other purpose whatsoever

The proponent bought the site knowing that full well.

For the government to even consider such a change to the leased conditions leads me to believe that somebody has unduly influenced this decision. I shall be passing that conclusion on to the Crime and Corruption Commission next week, hence my previous statement to put this into context. I am also led to believe that others have lodged similar complaints regarding the development process to the Crime and Corruption Commission. I will be making no further public comments on either of these matters in the future.

I also join the member for Ninderry in thanking our teachers. As he said, tomorrow is World Teachers' Day. My daughter is a teacher. I may be a bit biased but she does a wonderful job. Tomorrow morning, my staff and I will be doing what we have done for a number of years—that is, we will be delivering cakes and sweets to our teachers to have in the staffroom during morning tea. I apologise in advance for any stomach issues that may cause later in the day, but I am sure they will thoroughly enjoy their morning tea. I buy those things locally so it helps local businesses and it helps our teachers.