




Speech By
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ADJOURNMENT

Hotel Grand Chancellor, Biosecurity Breach Report

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (7.24 pm): I rise to talk about the recent report on the Hotel Grand Chancellor. This report details some issues, findings and recommendations following the biosecurity breach in quarantine—something which, as the member for Toowoomba North, I continue to raise as a serious concern if this facility were to arrive on Toowoomba's doorstep. Quite simply, this report finds that the systems and processes are not watertight and, as such, I am not satisfied that the community will be safe should a biosecurity breach occur within a facility in Toowoomba. I have repeatedly sought information from both the Premier and the Minister for Health about the plan for a facility and have received nothing.

The report even notes that there are 'heightened levels of anxiety within the broader community and the need for vigilance and rapid action to control the spread'. If this is acknowledged, why have the findings of the report not been discussed with the people of Toowoomba? Why has the detail for the planned facility and the management plan for the facility not been released or discussed in Toowoomba? The system has cracks in it, from infection prevention and control processes to communication, culture and quality assurance. These basic elements need attention. When I ask constituents what they believe the source of transmission was for the biosecurity breach, some believe it was aerosol. In fact, the report details the following—

With the absence of a scientific determination, the cluster is most likely to be the 'result of multiple weaknesses in infection prevention and control practices'.

The infection at the hotel is most likely to be from contact with a surface that was contaminated by virus shed.

Factors associated with infection prevention and control systems likely contributed to the transmission of infection.

Finally—

The review team notes that there was no virus detected on swabs of the air-conditioning systems ... and that accordingly, 'on advice from the hotel, there is no system that "shares air" between ... rooms ...

This does not demonstrate that the system the government wants to bring to Toowoomba is required, but it does certainly need improving. There is no recommendation for a regional centre. A single consistent approach to infection prevention and control across the quarantine hotel system is required. There needs to be installed quality assurance systems to ensure compliance, yet it was reported that no personal hand sanitiser was provided to support hand sanitisation between glove changes when cleaning guests' rooms.

What about communication? Case 5 stated that they found out about the results in the news media. A PowerPoint presentation to the hotel staff was shown to one, not all of the staff. Before we need to look at relocating and changing the built environment, let us look at the system that is in place, let us get it fixed and then let us have an open discussion with the people of Toowoomba about the built environment that this government wants to create in Toowoomba.