




Speech By
Adrian Tantari

MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

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ECONOMICS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (3.42 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on report No. 26 of the Economics and Government Committee titled *Inquiry into the report on the strategic review of the functions of the Integrity Commissioner*. The Economics and Governance Committee has a monitoring and review role in relation to the performance of functions of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner. The Integrity Commissioner review was conducted by Kevin Yearbury PSM as a part of a rolling five-year review requirement for this role. The scope of the review undertaken mainly focused on aspects of how the role was to be performed, with the terms of reference requiring the reviewer to look at a range of measures that were to have regard to the functions of the Integrity Commissioner.

In reviewing the report, the Economics and Governance Committee noted the fact that the review made many recommendations in key areas. They included the Integrity Commissioner's advisory, lobbying regulation and public awareness functions as well as the performance and organisational arrangements supporting the Integrity Commissioner. The committee also noted the strategic review also found that the scope of the Integrity Commissioner's functions and responsibilities had expanded since the passing of the Integrity Act and the number of persons eligible to seek advice from the Integrity Commissioner had grown significantly.

The role of the Integrity Commissioner has been in public focus during the time of this review. The reason for that has been a shameful period the people of Queensland had to endure because the LNP used the Integrity Commissioner review period to smear the government with allegations of involvement in a Public Service process, involving staff turnover in the Integrity Commissioner's office. As it has come to pass, following an investigation into the allegations of disclosure of confidential information at the office of the Integrity Commissioner, the CCC has, in its own words, concluded that the allegations had regrettably attracted a substantial amount of misinformation. Due to this misinformation and to protect the office of the Integrity Commissioner as well as keep public confidence in it without further erosion by these false and misleading allegations, the CCC considered releasing a public report necessary.

As an Economics and Governance Committee member reviewing the functions of the Integrity Commissioner, I was alarmed and very concerned that the CCC had to take this stance. Further to that, in relation to three matters the CCC investigated, the CCC clearly stated that there was no evidence of improper disclosure, the description of raid and seizure did not reflect the reality of what occurred and the much lauded about laptop, so crowed about by the LNP, was not wiped but repurposed by another public officer and the data stored. The findings of the CCC concluded that there was not one shred of evidence or truth to support the member for Kawana's inferences, mudslinging and allegations against the government.

Where does that leave the LNP? It comes down to one word—the one word the LNP constantly raises as a virtue of their own; integrity. In all the years that I have been following politics—and that is quite a few decades—the action taken by the member for Kawana in using the CCC and the Integrity

Commissioner review process to further his and the LNP's own political agenda whilst wasting Queensland taxpayers' money to pursue baseless and now totally refuted allegations, the fiction, the mistruths and the overreach is extraordinary. The member's actions must be the GOAT of all own goals ever kicked in a Westminster house of parliament. And boy oh boy wasn't it a beauty! This will no doubt be the crowning glory of all the exaggerations the member for Kawana will utter during his stay in this place.

Is it not amazing that after the CCC clearly and definitively cleared all allegations—no seizing of laptops, no data deletion, no smash and grab raids—that in terms of the routine public service process, once screamed about in exaltation by those on the other side during question times and debates in this House, there is now a deafening silence from the opposition. There is not a word, not a peep, nothing, zip, nada.

It goes to show that the other side will do anything in a desperate attempt to be relevant in this parliament. They bring nothing, have nothing and will continue to show nothing. In the debate of the report on the review of the Integrity Commissioner this afternoon the LNP have been caught out, their integrity is shredded on this matter and their words continue to stand for nothing. It is time the member for Kawana did the right thing and showed a backbone and integrity and stood up in this place and apologised to this parliament and the people of Queensland for his and the sum zero shadow cabinet's fanciful and appalling statements. I support the motion before the House.