



Speech By  
**Melissa McMahon**


**MEMBER FOR MACALISTER**

---

Record of Proceedings, 18 August 2022

**ECONOMICS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

**Report, Motion to Take Note**

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (3.56 pm): I rise to speak to the Economics and Governance Committee report No. 26 titled *Inquiry into the report on the strategic review of the functions of the Integrity Commissioner*. I advise the House that I have sought advice from the Office of the Integrity Commissioner on a number of occasions.

For the information of members of the House, the Integrity Act requires that a strategic review of the functions of the Integrity Commissioner be conducted every five years. We are here to talk about the most recent strategic review. Mr Kevin Yearbury was appointed in March 2021 to conduct the strategic review. The committee was consulted on Mr Yearbury's appointment and was also consulted during his review. Mr Yearbury's strategic review was presented to the Premier in September 2021 and tabled in the parliament in October 2021. The strategic review made 27 recommendations pertaining to the Integrity Commissioner's advisory functions, lobbying regulation functions, public awareness functions as well as organisational arrangements. Under the Integrity Act the report was automatically referred to the committee for its inquiry.

Since the committee tabled report No. 26, the government has released its response to all 27 recommendations which either supported the recommendations or supported them in principle to be considered in conjunction with the Coaldrake report. Notwithstanding the worthy recommendations made and to be implemented, there is actually nothing remarkable about the process that occurred here. It was a strategic five-year review conducted in accordance with an act; improvements in administration and structure were recommended and ultimately supported by a government. This happens across a number of government departments and oversight bodies regularly.

It was unremarkable really—until the 'unremarkables' across the aisle tied themselves up in knots over the day-to-day minutiae of the Public Service. Somehow concerns raised by the Integrity Commissioner made their way into the public domain and subsequently into the lap of the member for Kawana, who took the opportunity to conduct one of his performative CCC complaints via the media. While I have no idea how this information came to be public, it is clear that what has been demonstrated is an extremely unintelligible understanding of how Public Service secondments work. We heard incessantly from those opposite words like 'raid', 'seizure' and 'wiping of information'. Even the statement of reservation in the committee's report continues to refer to the 'seizing' of a laptop from the Office of the Integrity Commissioner.

The CCC, through Investigation workshop, found that this is a mischaracterisation of what occurred. They found the removal of the laptop and subsequent repurposing of said laptop wholly unremarkable. What else would we expect from the wholly unremarkable member for Kawana, Queensland's worst attorney-general? What is clear from this LNP saga of confected outrage and outright mischaracterisation is that Queensland's worst attorney-general should not be allowed anywhere near a legislative instrument, let alone be concerned with drafting one. The use of the words

'seize' and 'raid' imply the use of powers by an enforcement body. The reality is that it was 'old mate' from the IT department collecting a laptop to redistribute to another public servant where there was a shortage of devices. No government wastage here! A laptop was sitting idle and it was repurposed. You cannot win with this lot.

Speaking of an inability to understand a word—or, more precisely, the misuse of words can also be found in the statement of reservation. For the interest of members, contrary to what the statement of reservation outlines, the former integrity commissioner did not call for a royal commission into integrity issues in Queensland. A simple look at the transcript shows this. The former integrity commissioner was asked whether she would support a royal commission into integrity issues in Queensland. She said—

I would support a commission of inquiry into the various matters.

The LNP turned that statement into a call for a royal commission. There is not a word or statement that they have not twisted in order to play political games. What a sideshow and circus we have seen from those opposite—a display that has so far seen no apology to the people of Queensland. At best, they could not be bothered to provide a considered or informed comment. At worst, they deliberately misled them. There was not a skerrick of an apology to those public servants who were maligned and framed with allegations of nefarious or conspiratorial actions. This has detracted from a worthy body of work from Mr Yearbury. There are recommendations which will make the office more effective and efficient. I commend the committee's report to the House.