



Speech By
Michael Hart

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

Record of Proceedings, 17 August 2022


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Community Support and Services Committee, Report

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (3.55 pm): I want to tackle some of the evidence given by the Minister for Housing at this year's estimates. The minister was asked by the member for Burnett when she had in fact read the State Archivist's report on the mangocube affair that was sent to her office on 22 September 2017. The minister did not like that question. She said it was not in her portfolio and the chair accepted that when it clearly was in her portfolio. I will table the transcript of that particular exchange.

Tabled paper: Bundle of emails regarding the State Archivist [1165](#).

Later on the member for Moggill asked the same question and again it was rejected by the chair as not being in her portfolio, but eventually the minister did answer. The minister basically said that she had not read the draft report and that the report had been recalled by the State Archivist. I would like to tackle that statement.

The State Archivist sent an email on 22 September at 4.49 attaching his report on the mangocube affair directly to the minister. Later that afternoon the minister's office replied and said they had received that report. On Monday morning the State Archivist sent an email to a lady in the minister's office which basically said, 'Here's my report. It's different to what the CCC got, but similar.' The email states—

It also highlights my requirement to make independent judgement around prosecution under the public records act

On Thursday I will likely make that decision

Will DSITI make a media statement around the conclusion of this independent investigation and my decision around prosecution

Here the State Archivist is saying that he is going to make a decision on prosecution and will DSITI put out a statement on that particular report, and the minister has told us that she did not even bother to read it. The State Archivist was sent back a response by someone in the minister's office, saying that this is an issue he should take up with the director-general at their meeting the next day. That meeting took place the next day and then the State Archivist's report was in fact recalled.

You have to wonder: the minister receives a very, very important topical report into mangocube. It arrives in her office. She does not bother to read it. A director-general meets with the State Archivist the following Tuesday and that report is recalled. What did the director-general have to say to the State

Archivist to push for that report to be recalled? That is the question the minister needs to answer. If the minister received that very important report and did not bother to read it that is an entirely different question. Why did the minister not bother to read it?

The director-general was asked at his particular estimates—he has moved offices to a different ministerial office, although he is a director-general still—if he ever protects his minister by not giving full information. He said no. I suspect that he has misled the estimates committee as well and I will be writing to the Speaker about that. I table information relating to that.

Tabled paper. Extracts from the transcripts of the estimates hearings of the Queensland Parliament for the Community Support and Services Committee, held on 4 August 2022, and the Health and Environment Committee, held on 29 July 2022 [1166](#).

This minister has a lot of questions to answer. She has dodged and weaved around these as best she can with the protection of the chair of this committee, but she needs to answer a couple of things. What did she do? Did she read that report or not? She says she did not. If she did not read the report, why did her director-general meet with the State Archivist within a couple of days and then that report was mysteriously returned? The minister has a lot of questions to answer.