




Speech By  
**Barry O'Rourke**

**MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 28 November 2023

**INFORMATION PRIVACY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL;  
PUBLIC RECORDS BILL**

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (4.06 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 and the Public Records Bill 2023. The Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Bill aims to strengthen Queensland's information privacy network to better protect personal information and improve responses and remedies for data breaches and data misuse; clarify and improve the operation of Queensland's information privacy and right to information frameworks; and provide for a proactive release of cabinet documents. Most of the amendments proposed in the bill relate to the Information Privacy Act and the Right to Information Act.

As the minister stated in her first reading, the government has undertaken significant consultation in developing these reforms, including several rounds of consultation with the public and key stakeholders. In 2022 the government released a public consultation paper seeking feedback on proposed reforms including the introduction of new privacy principles for Queensland and the mandatory data breach notification scheme. The government also conducted extensive consultation with departments, statutory bodies, local councils, universities and other entities that are currently subject to Queensland's right to information and information privacy frameworks. More recently, the government has also conducted targeted consultation on a draft bill. Feedback from this consultation has been instrumental in developing a practical and workable improved framework appropriate for Queensland.

The Education, Employment and Training Committee was tasked to consider the policy to be achieved by the legislation and the application of fundamental legislative principles—that is, to consider whether the bill has sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals and to the institution of parliament. The committee also examined the bill for compatibility with human rights in accordance with the Human Rights Act. The committee held public briefings in Brisbane. The first was where the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet attended to provide a public briefing in relation to the bill. The committee held a second public hearing which was attended by the Local Government Association of Queensland, the Office of the Information Commissioner, Information Integrity Solutions Partners and the Queensland Human Rights Commission. There were three recommendations made for consideration.

With regard to the Public Records Bill, the previous act was originally implemented in 2002. When we consider the advancements in technology, especially around how we communicate with each other, so much has changed. We have iPhones, the World Wide Web and social media, just to name a few. That is why the Palaszczuk government initiated an independent review of the Public Records Act 2002 to seek to modernise the legislative framework governing the record keeping of some 500 public authorities across Queensland. I commend the bills to the House.