




Speech By
Lance McCallum

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

Record of Proceedings, 28 November 2023

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

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (5.10 pm): I rise in support of the Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Public Records Bill. These bills make critical reforms to the way that we collect, use, access, store and disclose information recorded by Queensland public sector agencies and those businesses and people who work with our public sector agencies.

Protecting privacy is paramount. It is essential and key to ensuring our basic dignity, safety and self-determination. We know that when data falls into the wrong hands it can harm people, businesses and other organisations. Identity theft, identity fraud, financial loss, physical harm, reputational harm, emotional harm such as embarrassment or distress, and discrimination are all examples of the types of significant injuries that can occur due to the misuse of information.

I do not think anyone would take issue with the statement that technology has become increasingly powerful and at a rate that is extremely hard to keep up with. Information technology develops at an extremely rapid rate. Information is connected and available to others and in the public domain and it is used in ways that we never anticipated. It is great to see these laws before this place are taking real steps to keep pace and remain contemporary when it comes to the legislative framework that applies. We also need to recognise the needs of preserving our history, including recognition of the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. These bills together strengthen Queensland's approach to information management in the interests of the Queensland public.

I turn specifically to the Public Records Bill. This supports the Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by requiring that public authorities accurately record the details of their decision. The bill also increases the time limit for prosecution of a contravention for unlawful disposal in relation to records from one year to three years, including a new section around attempted disposal. Under both bills, there will be new penalties for those who seek to undermine the transparency and accountability that the Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to maintaining and strengthening.

In addition, the Public Records Bill has an additional significant purpose, and that is to recognise the importance of public records as they relate to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Indigenous data sovereignty, Indigenous data governance and Indigenous cultural and intellectual property are a key focus of information management at the State Archives. Through an advisory group to the Queensland State Archives, First Nations people will have ownership over data that is and has been collected about them. I want to recognise the contributions of Dr Rose Barrowcliffe, the state's First Nations Archives Adviser, who played a crucial role in conveying the feedback from communities across Queensland. Her work highlighted the need to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices in decision-making processes for records management. I commend the bills to the House.