



Speech By  
**Michael Hart**


**MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2023

**STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE**

**Report, Motion to Take Note**

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (3.45 pm): I rise to speak to the Auditor-General's report No. 9 of 2021-22, *Regulating dam safety*. The committee looked at this in December 2022 and we are now, in September 2023, only getting to talk to this report now, so I had to go back and actually read this report again to see exactly what it was that we were looking at here, which is dam safety. As the chair of the committee has already said, the Auditor-General did raise nine recommendations. I think the chair of the committee skimmed over those nine recommendations that the Auditor-General raised. To the department's credit, they have implemented those recommendations and fixed some of the problems. However, when you read the Auditor-General's nine recommendations, there were some pretty serious recommendations in there that need to be fixed.

I have been on an iteration of this committee since 2012 with a short break in between. I am back on it again now, and we keep seeing the same Auditor-General reports. You can keep hearing the same speeches from me about us seeing the same Auditor-General reports over and over again. I am glad to see that the department has addressed those nine very important recommendations that the Auditor-General made.

The committee did make one recommendation, and that is that the bulk water providers and relevant local governments add independent audit and risk management committees. We have talked recently about other Auditor-General reports that highlighted this issue; that a lot of local governments and some of our utilities do not in fact have a risk and audit committee in place and therefore they are not looking at the problems that could exist in the future and implementing ways of fixing those in advance.

The other big issue that I have seen in our water entities over a number of years now is that they are possibly somewhat vulnerable to cyber attacks. That is something that we all need to keep a very close eye on. I know from personal experience, I am seeing more and more cyber attacks on my iPhone every day, so I can imagine how our utilities are having to deal with these sorts of matters on a larger and larger scale. It is a major issue that these utilities need to look at and get right, I must say.

With that, I would like to thank our committee for the work that it has done here and especially praise our secretariat because they are the ones that do the majority of the leg work in this and pull all the reports together. Margaret Telford has joined our committee now and she has been doing a fantastic job for the last couple of months while Stephanie is taking a seat up the front there at the table. I really praise them. They do a wonderful job. Without them, we could not do the work that we do. Thank you.