




Speech By
Adrian Tantari

MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

Record of Proceedings, 14 February 2024

ECONOMICS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (2.57 pm): I rise to add my contribution to the debate on the Economics and Governance Committee's report No. 44—

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr TANTARI: Sorry?

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. Members, I will start warning people if you are going to have conversations across the chamber.

Mr TANTARI:—*Examination of Auditor-General reports.* The EGC had the responsibility, within its portfolio area, of assessing the integrity, economic efficiency and effectiveness of government financial management by examining government financial documents and considering the annual and other reports of the Auditor-General. We know that the role of the Auditor-General is to provide to the parliament an independent assurance of public sector accountability and performance. This is achieved through reporting to parliament results of financial and performance audits undertaken by the Audit Office, QAO.

The QAO performance audits examine government programs to consider if public money is being well used and the government is meeting taxpayers' expectations around service delivery. These audits do not consider the merits of a particular government policy; rather, they focus on how the policy is implemented—for example, whether it is achieving its objectives effectively, economically and efficiently, in keeping with the relevant legislation. In reporting to the parliament on these audit results and on any information or insights identified through the audit process, the QAO makes recommendations for improvements to enhance financial reporting practices and support better public service delivery for all Queenslanders.

The report summarised seven reports considered by the Economics and Governance Committee as referred to the committee by the Auditor-General. They were: report 14, *State entities 2021*; report 17, *Appointing and renewing government boards*; report 2, *Improving grants management*; report 3, *Managing Queensland's COVID-19 economic response and recovery*; report 4, *2022 status of Auditor-General recommendations*; and report 6, *Managing workforce agility in the Queensland public sector*.

The committee considered the findings and recommendations of the QAO and the responses of those entities to those recommendations, including their identified implementation actions and time frames. The committee engaged with the Auditor-General and the QAO in relation to the findings of

some of these reports in public briefings. While the committee will not be taking further action in relation to the audits, the committee welcomes further action from entities to ensure the issues identified by the Auditor-General continue to be addressed. Ongoing improvements in entity processes and enhancements to governance, controls, monitoring and reporting will help facilitate more effective, efficient—

Debate, on motion of Mr Tantari, adjourned.