



Speech By  
**Jonty Bush**


**MEMBER FOR COOPER**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 November 2025

**JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE; REPORT**

**Motion to Take Note; Report No. 17**

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (3.56 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the committee report that looks at the oversighting of the Office of the Integrity Commissioner. I want to put on record my thanks to the office and to the Integrity Commissioner herself, Linda Waugh, and to Paxton Booth, the Deputy Integrity Commissioner. I am rising to speak again because, as much as I love my time on the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee, I miss my time on the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, where we did get to oversight the important work of the Integrity Commissioner. The work that it does is incredibly vital and plays such an important role for Queensland. It has been disappointing to see Queensland go backwards under this LNP government and integrity scandals hanging around their neck. We have seen this government ignore important expert advice and use this parliament as their political plaything, but I digress.

The committee did look at the oversighting of the office from 2023-24 and that report showed a couple of important things. Before I hop into that, I will touch on the funding issue. Obviously it is fantastic to hear about the funding uplift from the Attorney-General today, but that does not give the Attorney-General the opportunity to rewrite history. The reality is that there was a funding uplift under the Miles Labor government. We did invest heavily in that office. No amount of saying otherwise here will rewrite that history. It is wonderful that that investment has been put in by the current LNP government, but that does not erase what we have done. The Miles Labor government, along with previous Labor governments, invested in the Office of the Integrity Commissioner. It is that year-on-year investment that has enabled the office to do the important work they are doing and to respond to the uplift they have had.

In the 2023-24 year the office received 122 formal requests from a designated person for advice on ethics, integrity or interests issues; finalised 115 formal written advice requests; finalised eight urgent formal advice requests within one business day; and finalised 89 formal written advice requests within two weeks of the request. That represents a 56 per cent increase in that financial year and is a reflection of the significant reforms of the Miles Labor government—and the Palaszczuk government before that—around putting the emphasis on the importance of integrity here in Queensland. We all know the reforms that were implemented in that time. Notwithstanding that incredible uplift in demand, 77 per cent of requests were finalised within 10 days, which is a huge credit to the office and the work they are doing and to the Integrity Commissioner and her team.

Importantly, 85 per cent of the advice requests that were given in that period were related to a conflict of interest, which emphasises the importance of the functions of the Integrity Commissioner when it comes to dealing with conflicts of interest. Conflicts of interest are really funny things. I worked in the Public Service for a really long time. It is not only about dealing with conflicts of interest; it is about dealing with perceived conflicts of interest. The reality is that we do know that there are integrity clouds hanging around this government and that there are ministers who sit here today who were shadow ministers at the time—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, the time is four o'clock. I ask that the debate be adjourned.

**Ms BUSH:** I was just getting started.

Debate, on motion of Ms Bush, adjourned.