



Speech By
Jonty Bush

MEMBER FOR COOPER


Record of Proceedings, 11 December 2025

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

Resumed from 20 November (see p. 3812), on motion of Mr Hunt—

That the House take note of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee Report No. 17, 58th Parliament, *Oversight of the Office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner*, tabled on 5 September 2025.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (3.06 pm), continuing: In resuming my contribution, I think I was talking about how important integrity is in public life and how it makes every other promise that we make to Australians possible. It gives us the legitimacy to do the work that we do and it is why real and perceived conflicts of interest matter so deeply. A real conflict of interest can skew the decisions that are made and erode fairness that Australians expect from their governments, but even the perception of a conflict of interest can do just as much damage.

I note that in her report, the Integrity Commissioner did reflect that there had been an increase in the number of requests her office received for advice for managing potential conflicts of interest and perceived conflicts of interest. This was one of the questions that came up for me from the Integrity Commissioner's report: at what point does that real or perceived conflict of interest arise? These were the types of scenarios that came to my mind: does a real or perceived conflict of interest arise at a time like maybe when two ministers are spied walking along a beach on holidays together, or is it the time perhaps when two ministers, who have incredible power over funding decisions, are in a formal intimate relationship—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Member for Cooper, can you tell me how this relates to this report?

Ms BUSH: It is the Integrity Commissioner's report and she explicitly talks to managing real and perceived conflicts of interest.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, please continue to refer to that report, thank you.

Ms BUSH: Yes. In the report she talks about the importance of managing conflicts of interest. I guess for me the question is: when does that arise? Is it maybe when one minister relocates major sporting events out of one part of Queensland and into another person's electorate? Is that when—

Mr HUNT: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. As chair of the committee and one of the authors of the report, I submit the member is not being relevant to the report. She is—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is the point of order?

Mr HUNT: Relevance. These are hypothetical situations. She is deliberately trying to make imputations.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Nicklin. One moment. I will just seek some advice.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, we will have silence while I am receiving advice. Member for Cooper, there is a question before the House with regard to this report. Hypothetical situations do not answer that question. Am I clear?

Ms BUSH: I am happy to move on, absolutely. I think managing those real or perceived conflicts of interest does protect integrity—and the commissioner's report goes to the integrity of the institutions that we serve.

In my final moments I congratulate and thank Linda Waugh, the Integrity Commissioner, on the fantastic work that she and her office have done. They do an incredible amount of work processing requests and overseeing Queensland's regulatory framework and I wish them a very merry Christmas.