



Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch
MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 20 November 2025

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE; REPORT

Motion to Take Note; Report No. 17

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (3.21 pm): I rise to speak to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee's report regarding the oversight of the Office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner. The Integrity Commissioner's role is clear, independent and enshrined in law. It is to provide impartial advice to designated persons on ethics, integrity and conflicts of interest, maintain the lobbying register and educate public office holders. Whilst the committee examined the Office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner's annual report 2023-24 tabled on 24 September 2024 pursuant to the Integrity Act 2009, I want to focus my contribution on the committee's oversight hearing where a number of topics were explored, including confidentiality and disclosure advice. Let me quote directly from the committee's report. It states—

The Integrity Commissioner gave evidence about the importance of confidentiality with respect to the advice she provides, and the circumstances in which it might be disclosed. The confidentiality provisions of the Integrity Act apply to the Integrity Commissioner and her staff, not a designated person seeking advice. As such, that person is free to share any advice provided to them. However, the Integrity Commissioner noted that as a matter of practice, she would ask a person who does so to disclose her advice in full.

In other words, members and ministers can absolutely release advice provided to them by the Integrity Commissioner. In fact, I would imagine that if there was any question of a potential or perceived conflict, if there was media interest in a matter or if questions were raised in estimates let's say, a minister would willingly volunteer the advice provided to them so as to prove they had made all appropriate declarations and adhered to the Ministerial Handbook and code of conduct. It would be a way, I imagine, to ensure transparency and avoid any doubt about their integrity.

The *Courier-Mail* reported on 17 July this year that ministers Camm and Mander had confirmed that they are in a relationship—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have been listening with great interest to a member of the former government—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): What is the point of order?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is in relation to a report that was tabled for the financial year 2023-24. The point of order is relevance. I note that the member was talking about a committee hearing, but now she is straying into matters that she would like to bring into this debate that are simply irrelevant.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice. Member for Algester, can you advise the House how what you are talking about now is relevant? I was listening intently to the member quoting from evidence at the inquiry. You have just shifted past that. Can you explain that or come back to the report please?

Ms ENOCH: Certainly, Mr Deputy Speaker. The report has been tabled. It is very clear what the Integrity Commissioner has said about her role. The committee has made that clear in their report. There have been matters that have questioned the legitimacy of being able to share information from a minister, and that is certainly why I believe this is relevant to the debate today.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: One moment while I seek some advice. The advice I have received is that the advice of the Integrity Commissioner is very broad with regard to integrity issues. If you remain in line with the report and the review that will be very helpful.

Ms ENOCH: I am certainly intending to do that. As I have said, any relationship—congratulations. Love is love; there is no issue. The same report that we have just talked about, however, stated that their relationship was revealed to their ministerial colleagues just three days earlier, despite it being 'understood that they had been seeing each other for quite some time'.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I apologise; I have to move to Mr Nicholls's chair because my microphone will not work. The point of order is absolutely on relevance, Mr Deputy Speaker. The member who was on her feet is straying into extraordinary, disrespectful and disgraceful behaviour for a member of parliament.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, let's stop the quarrelling across the chamber. Member for Algester, you need to come back to the committee's report. You have moved away from that in making reflections on others. Please confine your contribution to the report.

Ms ENOCH: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. As was in the report, releasing advice about information provided by the Integrity Commissioner on the grounds of confidentiality, which of course the committee has reported, is not an argument whatsoever. As I said earlier, I would imagine that, given the information the committee has reported on, if there was any question about any minister's integrity they would release that advice as par for the course. Like I said, there is no real issue about whether there are relationships or not. They would receive integrity advice around that. The issue is really around whether personal relationships are pre-existing or emerge in the context of a ministerial cabinet. If that happens they have to immediately require—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Algester—

Dr ROWAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry, Leader of the House, I had started to pull up the member for Algester. Member for Algester, the matters you are talking about now are not contained in the report and are circumstances that have continued after the report. If you continue in that vein and criticise members, I will sit you down.

Ms ENOCH: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I appreciate that.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The matter of whether a report is released or not is a matter for the member.

Ms ENOCH: The report itself and the quote that I used at the beginning of my contribution were very clear. The Integrity Commissioner has made it clear that those who receive that advice are able to release it. There is no issue of confidentiality. I will not mention any actual individuals, but if there are any perceived or actual conflicts they must be managed with a formal conflict plan so the Queensland public can have faith and trust that the decisions being made by the government are not biased in any way, and I think that is pretty clear in the report. It is why the Ministerial Code of Conduct and the Ministerial Handbook exist, it is why the test of public interest or public perception is applied to such matters and it is why, as the committee reinforced, the role of the Integrity Commissioner is so important.

The committee outlined in its report that the role of the Integrity Commissioner includes giving written advice about ethics or integrity issues to designated persons, former designated persons and former ministerial advisers and meeting with and advising members of the Legislative Assembly, orally or in writing, about interests. The annual report also made clear that the Integrity Commissioner's office is delivering on its responsibilities. I want to acknowledge the Integrity Commissioner for her incredible work. I know that we all rely on her a great deal to be able to provide that advice and then table that advice when necessary.