



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR THEODORE

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JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (3.32 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate of the committee report into the operations of the Office of the Information Commissioner. I thank the committee members and the committee chair for their outstanding work on something that is crucial to our democracy—that is, openness and transparency of information.

The importance of the OIC certainly cannot be understated. Openness and transparency is fundamental in any democracy. It empowers citizens to make informed decisions. It empowers citizens to be informed about what is happening in government. The OIC is also important in terms of how data is handled. It ensures that data is carefully respected and properly guarded. We need to ensure that there are high levels of safeguard to create confidence among the Queensland public.

I am interested in talking about AI, which is found on page 14 of the report, and how quickly technology is evolving. We are talking here about microchip companies designing, manufacturing and selling chips that are AI capable. This is a game changer when it comes to computers harnessing data or computing data and potentially causing security and safety issues around information. This is outlined in the report at 3.7, 'Management of risks associated with AI'. As a government we need to ensure the necessary safeguards are put in place. I note that in other parts of the world legislation has been put in place to make it an offence to use AI to mimic a human being or sell a message. This is something that governments need to get onto. They need to understand the ramifications of AI and they need to understand the importance of being in front of these changes.

The Information Commissioner highlighted serious concerns when it comes to proper privacy and safety mechanisms. Unfortunately, when it comes to information technology and what criminal organisations will be using in the future, our laws always seem to be behind the eight ball. We could say that that future is now. We are constantly playing catch-up.

Whilst it is very important that we safeguard information and ensure openness and transparency in our democracy, we need to have the necessary legislation in place to protect data, to protect the livelihoods of our constituents and to protect against the huge changes that AI will present to our society.