




Speech By
Melissa McMahon

MEMBER FOR MACALISTER

Record of Proceedings, 11 December 2025

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Ms McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (3.32 pm): I rise to make what is probably a more prosaic contribution on the debate before the House to review the report by the committee into the work of the Office of the Integrity Commissioner. Most members will be familiar with the primary source of contact that we have with the Integrity Commissioner, which provides written advice about ethics and integrity issues. I would imagine that most members of the House are quite familiar with the ability and the availability that the staff of the Office of the Integrity Commission provide to members of parliament. I would certainly like to thank the Integrity Commissioner and her staff for their assistance over the time that I have been in this chamber.

In the report period, the Integrity Commissioner received an increase in formal requests from designated persons such as members of this House. I would not want to extrapolate that that indicates that there is a particular increase in matters or issues of personal conflicts of interest; rather, I point to members of this House being more aware of the consequences of a failure to do so, the availability of the Integrity Commissioner and the education provided to members of this House. Of 122 formal requests, only 115 required written advice requests. I know last time when I was part of the committee that reviewed the work of the Integrity Commissioner, there was always some debate about whether that written formal advice could or should be tabled in this House when there was some question around it. I understand that that is still a point of contention. However, by and large, I am quite happy that the work the Integrity Commissioner is doing meets the needs of the members of the House.

Another key aspect of the work of the Integrity Commissioner is monitoring the lobbying register. We were provided with a range of information on the work done to monitor the lobbying register and also some of the actions taken against lobbyists. I note that there were 108 inquiries about lobbying here in Queensland, but only one of those resulted in a show cause notice and I think, as the Integrity Commissioner pointed out, that only resulted in a matter of education. I do commend the Integrity Commissioner for taking an education-first stance when dealing with this considering some of the changes that have been introduced recently.

As I said, I take this opportunity to thank the Integrity Commissioner and her staff. They have worked really hard, particularly given the number of new changes and amendments that they were dealing with during the period of this annual report. The education-first principle taken by the Integrity Commissioner means that we can expect an increase in the work that they are doing because, as other contributors have said, the people of Queensland need to have faith in the integrity of the institutions that govern this state.

For various reasons, people do seem to have a level of animosity towards elected officials. We in this House acknowledge that we cannot make everyone happy all of the time, but certainly people need to have faith not only in the work of and the conflicts that our elected members may have but also in the organisations that really do look after and manage the Queensland systems that we need and

that we have to have faith in, in order to have a strong and positive impact on Queensland. With that in mind, I thank the staff and I thank the committee that worked on putting this report together. I commend the report to the House.