



Speech By  
**Michael Crandon**

**MEMBER FOR COOMERA**

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Record of Proceedings, 28 August 2025

**GOVERNANCE, ENERGY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Report, Motion to Take Note**



**Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (3.00 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee Report No. 9, 58th Parliament, *Consideration of Auditor-General reports to parliament*, tabled on 19 June 2025.

In so doing, I thank the committee members and the committee secretariat for their efforts in providing this report to the House. This report considered Auditor-General reports to parliament Nos 11 and 12.

For report No. 11, the QAO summarised the audit results of 236 Queensland state government entities, including the 21 core government departments. The QAO found that state entities' 2023-24 financial statements are reliable and comply with relevant laws and standards.

Report No. 12 examined how the Queensland government is managing its debt and investments. It also reports on recent transactions, risks and their management strategies. The QAO found that, in 2023-24, net debt increased because the government borrowed more for capital projects. The increase in net debt was partly offset by increases in the value by the government's investments.

In report No. 11, *State entities 2024*, it is worth noting that there was a focus on information and control. Information systems are the hardware, software, networks and data that entities use to manage information. The QAO expanded its audit to consider not just the applications state entities use but also their underlying infrastructure such as their databases, operating systems and network access.

Almost two-thirds of new deficiencies and significant deficiencies identified as part of the QAO's audits this year related to information systems controls. That is very worrying. In terms of the weaknesses identified in information systems controls, the QAO advised that they continued to find recurring issues, not just in how access is controlled but also in how risks are managed where information systems or data processing is managed by vendors external to government.

In this regard, the Auditor-General provides some guidance. For example, they found that, while key controls at state entities are generally effective, internal controls can further be improved. Particular deficiencies were found in controls over payroll, accounts payable and expenditure, governance and procurement, and contract management. We encourage relevant entities in that regard to continue to work to improve those controls.

Report No. 12, *Managing Queensland's debt and investments 2024*, made four overarching observations of debt and investment during the investment period: borrowings for major projects are expected to increase—there is no surprise there; green bonds are supporting environmental projects—which is an interesting observation; the value of government investments has grown—which is encouraging; and the government is investing in quantum computing.

The committee notes the increases in both borrowings and the value of the long-term asset portfolio. The committee will watch the investment in quantum research and innovation with interest. I commend the report to the House.