



QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT **COMMITTEES**

**Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 22 May 2025
relating to an allegation of publishing a false or misleading
account of proceedings before the House by the member for
Cooper**

Ethics Committee



Report No. 240

58th Parliament, December 2025

Ethics Committee

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Functions and procedures

The Ethics Committee (the committee) is a statutory committee of the Queensland Parliament established under section 102 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*. The committee of the 58th Parliament was appointed by resolution of the Legislative Assembly on 28 November 2024.

The committee's area of responsibility includes dealing with complaints about the ethical conduct of particular members and dealing with alleged breaches of parliamentary privilege by members of the Assembly and other persons. The committee considers and reports on matters of privilege and possible contempts of parliament referred to it internally by the Speaker, the Registrar, a committee, or the House. This is an important element of the Parliament's exclusive cognisance over its own affairs, which enables it to fulfil its functions.

The committee has established procedures and practices for dealing with referrals which ensure procedural fairness and natural justice is afforded to all parties. These procedures are set out in chapters 44 and 45 of Standing Orders. The committee is also bound by the instructions regarding witnesses contained in Schedule 3 of the Standing Orders.

The committee applies the civil standard of proof, on the balance of probabilities, in making a finding of contempt. This is a lower standard than the 'beyond reasonable doubt' standard required for criminal matters. However, proof of a very high order is required to make a finding of contempt, consistent with the test applied in relation to misconduct charges at common law.

All references and webpages are current at the time of publishing.

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Introduction and background

1. This report concerns an allegation that the member for Cooper published a false or misleading account of proceedings before the House on various social media platforms.
2. On 8 May 2025, the member for Cooper posted an excerpt of the record of proceedings on her social media pages. The post was a combination of her commentary, with comments made by the Hon Tim Mander MP, Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for Olympic and Paralympic Games (the Minister) during a debate on the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill 2025 (QAS Bill) in the House.
3. The committee received a written referral on 23 May 2025, after the Speaker informed the House of the matter on 22 May 2025.
4. In his ruling, Mr Speaker noted that the Clerk and the Minister had requested the member for Cooper remove the video, and while the video was removed from Facebook, it remained on TikTok and Instagram. The member for Cooper posted an open letter to the Minister on her LinkedIn page in which she stated that her summary in the video was both fair and accurate and declined the Minister's request to remove the video.
5. In a letter dated 20 May 2025, the Speaker advised the member for Cooper that he was of the view that the post offends the Broadcast Terms and Conditions and there was an arguable case that it was a false and misleading account of proceedings before the House. The Speaker requested that the member for Cooper remove the posts and make an apology to the House.
6. The Speaker, in his ruling stated:

I note that no such apology was made in the terms requested and that the video remained on the member's Instagram and TikTok pages.

Rather, the member chose to 'double down' and raise the matter in the House this afternoon making a number of comments about the Minister that were required to be withdrawn and then finally apologising and indicating that the posts will be withdrawn.

In its Report No. 232 tabled in 2024 the Ethics Committee noted that members needed to use social media responsibly, particularly in a society that is highly cognisant of social media impacts and harm. That report led to the Code of Ethical Standards for members to include being respectful to other members of parliament.

I do not believe that the member has provided an adequate explanation or apology and based on the fact that the member has ignored requests from both myself and the Clerk of the Parliament, I will be referring the matter to the Ethics Committee.¹

¹ Speaker's referral, 23 May 2025, pp 5-7.

Contempt of Parliament

7. Section 37 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* (the POQA) defines the meaning of ‘contempt’ of the Assembly as follows:

(1) *“Contempt” of the Assembly means a breach or disobedience of the powers, rights or immunities, or a contempt, of the Assembly or its members or committees.*

(2) *Conduct, including words, is not contempt of the Assembly unless it amounts, or is intended or likely to amount, to an improper interference with—*

the free exercise by the Assembly or a committee of its authority or functions; or

the free performance by a member of the member’s duties as a member.

8. Standing Order 266(13) provides that an example of a contempt is:

Publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings before the House or a committee.

9. Section 58 of the POQA provides:

(1) *The Assembly may at any time impose conditions on the publication of a parliamentary record.*

(2) *It does not matter whether the parliamentary record has been previously published or whether the Assembly authorises or has authorised the publication.*

Example— Assume an audio or visual record of proceedings in the Assembly is published on the internet by an authorised publisher under section 51. The Assembly may impose conditions on the publication by the authorised publisher. The Assembly may also impose conditions on the publication by a person who has accessed the internet publication of a parliamentary record derived from that access.

(3) *Publication of a parliamentary record in contravention of a condition imposed by the Assembly is a contempt of the Assembly.*

10. Relevantly, the Broadcast Footage Terms and Conditions² provide:

The Legislative Assembly authorises the further publication of this broadcast of the proceedings of the Queensland Parliament, subject to the following conditions:

...

² Queensland Parliament, Broadcast Footage Terms and Conditions: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Live-and-Archived-Broadcasts/Terms-and-Conditions>.

3. Excerpts of proceedings are to be placed in context so as to avoid any misrepresentation.

11. Section 49 of the POQA defines a 'parliamentary record' as including a record of proceedings in the Assembly; and it may be in any form. The Act provides an example: 'The record may be in audio or visual form and last only a short time'.
12. The committee determined that the publication of the excerpt of proceedings could fall within two different contempts. First, as a breach of SO 266(13) and second as a contravention of the Broadcast Footage Terms and Conditions in accordance with section 58(3) of the POQA.
13. As per the precedent set in Report No. 232, the committee extrapolated the following elements from the standing orders and POQA:

***Element 1:** Has the member published an account of proceedings of the House?*

***Element 2:** Was that account of proceedings false or misleading?*

***Element 3:** Did the publishing of the false and misleading proceedings amount, or was intended or likely to amount, to an improper interference with the free exercise by the Assembly or a committee of its authority or functions; or the free performance by a member of the member's duties as a member?*

14. The committee has previously considered a breach of the broadcast conditions on three occasions.³
15. Based on those precedents, the committee applied the following elements to assess whether a contempt could be found under section 58(3) of the POQA:

***Element 1:** Was there a publication of a parliamentary record by the member?*

***Element 2:** Was that publication in contravention of a condition imposed by the Assembly?*

16. The relevant condition being, '3. Excerpts of proceedings are to be placed in context so as to avoid any misrepresentation.'

³ Ethics Committee, Report No. 157, 55th Parliament, Matter of Privilege referred by the Speaker on 16 December 2024 relating to an alleged use of the Broadcast of the Proceedings of the Queensland Parliament in contradiction of the terms and conditions; Ethics Committee, Report No. 181, 56th Parliament, Inquiry into matters relating to a Matter of Privilege referred by the Speaker on 15 June 2018 relating to a breach of the Broadcast Terms and Conditions; Ethics Committee, Report No. 232, 57th Parliament, Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 7 June 2024 relating to an allegation of publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings of the House.

The social media post in question

17. The transcript of the member for Cooper's social media clip is below:

Ms Bush: *In extraordinary scenes last night in Queensland Parliament, Queensland Sports Minister referred to Paralympian and all-round superstar Alexa Leary as:*

Plays clip from official broadcast

Mr Mander: *...most beautiful woman playing sport at the moment...*

Ms Bush: *An athlete's appearance shouldn't be the subject of parliamentary debate. Ironically this comment was made in response to amendments that the opposition introduced that would require Queensland's Academy of Sport to report publicly on their quotient of funding it allocates to female sport and participation. We know that women receive just around 10% of the total funding pie when it comes to elite sport performance despite absolutely smashing it nationally and internationally. And you know who else misses out on the elite performance funding pie would be our disabled athletes who receive less than 10% of that allocation. So we in Opposition again moved further amendments last night that would require the QAS to report publicly on how much funding they provide to our parasports athletes and to obligate the academy to form formal relationships with grassroots disabled sporting organisations so that we know that we can have our para athletes into the future. Let's hear what the Sports Minister had to say about that:*

Plays clip from official broadcast

Mr Mander: *They do not need that. The partnerships and the initiatives that we have already prove that this amendment is an absolute nonsense.*

Ms Bush: *We know that the barriers facing our female athletes and our disabled athletes are real and they are significant. Not including them in this legislation is a huge miss for the government.*

18. The Record of Proceedings records the Minister's speech with respect to the two excerpts used by the member for Cooper as follows:

Mr MANDER: *The academy does incredible work advocating for and supporting women in sport. What those opposite are saying is an insult to the academy. They have achieved incredible results. One only has to look at the results of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris. Of Queensland Olympic medallists, 23 were female and 17 were male. While 36 per cent of our Paralympic medallists were female, I want to take the opportunity to highlight one of our superstars, Alexa Leary, who has to be the cheeriest, most beautiful woman playing sport at the moment. She is just a delight to be around. She won gold in the women's 100-metre freestyle.*

Ms Bush *interjected.*

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: *Member for Cooper, you are not interjecting from your correct seat. You are warned under the standing orders.*

Mr MANDER: *She got a record the other day in the mixed 4 x 100-metre medley, plus silver in the mixed 4 x 100-metre freestyle. ...*

...

Mr MANDER: *I withdraw. This amendment should be known as the 'amendment of the bleeding obvious'. It is obvious that you partner and cooperate with all sporting organisations. We have gone past that stage. Para-sport is now accepted. It is accepted. It is part of the norm. You do not have to make special clauses about it. That is actually insulting to the Paralympic movement. They do not need that. The partnerships and the initiatives that we have already prove that this amendment is an absolute nonsense.*⁴

The committee's proceedings

19. The committee has established procedures and practices for dealing with referrals which ensure procedural fairness is afforded to all parties. These procedures are set out in chapters 44 and 45 of Standing Orders.
20. On 12 June 2025, the committee wrote to the member for Cooper to provide her with the opportunity to respond to the allegation in writing by 25 June 2025, and to the Minister to provide him with the opportunity to provide any further information in addition to his correspondence to the Speaker.
21. On 1 July 2025, the secretariat wrote to both the member for Cooper and the Minister advising them that no responses had been received by the requested deadline.
22. On 2 July 2025, the member for Cooper requested an extension until the end of the week commencing 21 July 2025. The Chair and Deputy Chair granted the extension on behalf of the committee.
23. On 3 July 2025, the Minister advised that he had no further information to provide and re-provided the material he had sent to the Speaker.
24. On 22 July 2025, the secretariat wrote to the member for Cooper on behalf of the committee to remind her that her submission was due by the end of the week. No response was received.
25. On 29 July 2025, the member for Cooper emailed the committee noting the deadline had passed and seeking a final two-week extension and advised she was seeking legal advice. On 31 July 2025, the Chair and Deputy Chair, on behalf of the committee, granted an extension until 14 August 2025.
26. On 6 August 2025, the Minister wrote to the committee providing the committee with a photo of the member for Cooper wearing a t-shirt that referenced his speech in the House that was subject to this allegation.
27. On 15 August 2025, the member for Cooper contacted the committee noting she was aware that the deadline for submission had passed, and that she was engaging lawyers to respond. She requested a further extension until 19 August 2025 which the Chair and Deputy Chair granted on behalf of the committee.
28. On 19 August 2025, the committee received a submission from Peter Adams-Clark, Senior Associate of Results Legal on behalf of the member for Cooper.

⁴ Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2025, pp 1168, 1170.

29. On 28 August 2025, the committee wrote to the member for Cooper to seek clarification on matters in her submission and to seek clarification on her multiple requests for an extension.
30. On 11 September 2025, the member for Cooper responded to the committee's request for further information.
31. On 15 October 2025, the Clerk advised the committee on the application of the Broadcast Footage Terms and Conditions.
32. On 29 October 2025, the committee wrote to the member for Cooper to advise of its preliminary finding of contempt under section 58(3) of the POQA and seek a submission on penalty.
33. On 10 November 2025, the member for Cooper provided her response.

Consideration

Contempt under section 37 of the POQA and Standing Order 266(13)

Element 1: Has the member published an account of proceedings of the House?

34. The Minister alleged that the member for Cooper published a false and misleading account of his contribution to the QAS Bill in her Facebook post on 8 May 2025. The post also appeared on Instagram and TikTok.
35. The committee considered that a contribution in the House by a member of Parliament on a Bill is clearly a proceeding of the House.
36. The member for Cooper did not contest that, in publishing the video on social media that contained an excerpt of the Minister's speech in the House, she had published an account of proceedings of the House.
37. The committee determined that the first element is satisfied.

Element 2: Was that account of proceedings false or misleading?

38. The Minister stated that his contribution on the QAS Bill clearly referred to para athlete Ms Leary as 'beautiful' in the broader sense of character and contribution.
39. The Minister claimed that the member for Cooper selectively edited and presented those proceedings in a manner that falsely implies he made a superficial or inappropriate comment about Ms Leary's physical appearance.
40. The committee noted that the footage, while edited for brevity, was an exact excerpt of the broadcast of proceedings. Therefore, it was not false.
41. The key question for the committee was whether the member for Cooper's social media post was misleading.
42. The member for Cooper made several arguments for why the post was not misleading.

43. First, the member for Cooper stated that additional context does not explain the Minister's comments. She noted that the Minister referred to the work the QAS does for women in sport and, specifically, statistics of male and female Queensland Olympic medalists and referred to Ms Leary as an example of a female Queensland medalist. However, the member for Cooper stated:

*'The context...provides no clarification as to why Ms Leary's beauty—whether physical or otherwise—is relevant to the statistics in the paragraph or to Ms Leary's swimming achievements. Beauty is not relevant to a swimmer's ability or achievements...[and has] no connection or relevance in the context in which it appears. So, providing the context would clarify nothing.'*⁵

44. Second, the member for Cooper noted that the Cambridge dictionary definition of 'beauty' includes "the quality of being pleasing and attractive, especially to look at" and accords with her statement that, "an athlete's appearance shouldn't be the subject of parliamentary debate". She argued that her statement cannot be said to be likely to lead the public astray.
45. Third, the member for Cooper argued that removing the Minister's words surrounding the extracted statement does not change or qualify the meaning of that statement and if the surrounding context were included, a reasonable member of the public would not be misled by the post as to the Minister's meaning.
46. Fourth, the member for Cooper also noted that her introduction to the video ("Queensland's Sports Minister referred to paralympian and all-round superstar, Alexa Leary, as") was a factual summary that did not anchor the viewer's mind to a particular interpretation of the extracted statement prior to viewing it, nor could it lead the viewer into an erroneous understanding or interpretation of the Minister's statement.
47. Fifth, the member for Cooper stated that the Minister referring to Ms Leary's appearance is one of the possible reasonable and commonsensical interpretations of the extracted statement regardless of whether further context is provided or not.
48. Sixth, the member for Cooper also stated that she is permitted to publicly voice her opinions with respect to statements made by members of Parliament during public debate. To restrict the member for Cooper's right to do so would be without proper basis and an unjustified restriction of her implied freedom of political communication.
49. Finally, the member for Cooper noted that the Minister provided no clarification as to why the word "beautiful" was used. The member for Cooper noted that he did not, for example, state that it refers to a beautiful personality and perspective on life, or it was meant to indicate that she has a beautiful character, or that her achievements are beautiful; nor did he say words to the effect that Ms Leary's contribution to sport was beautiful.

⁵ Member for Cooper submission, 19 August 2025, p 5.

50. Neither the POQA or the Standing Orders define 'misleading', therefore its ordinary meaning should be used. The Macquarie Dictionary defines 'mislead' as '*to lead or guide wrongly; lead astray*' or '*to lead into error of conduct, thought or judgement.*'⁶
51. This element was difficult to determine because the arguments are largely subjective. What one person may think is misleading may not be shared by another, and such opinions on this particular matter may be based on a range of factors including previous life experiences, gender and age.
52. The committee does not dispute the right of members to have, and to voice, their opinions on statements made by Ministers and other members of this House and understands social media is a necessary method for some members to connect with their communities. However, with the right to voice such opinions comes responsibility to do so in a way that is not misleading, does not misrepresent what was said and upholds the dignity of this House and the debates that necessarily take place within it.
53. The intention of the POQA and the Standing Orders is not to deny members' freedom of political communication, rather they place necessary limits to ensure fairness and respect.
54. Extracting only eight words from a paragraph of 135 words in the Minister's more than 2000-word speech, coupled with the member for Cooper's own narrative and interpretation around those eight words may provide an alternative perspective on the words used by the Minister.
55. Including more of the Minister's speech would have undoubtedly provided additional context to the extracted statement, as immediately prior to the comment in question the Minister was speaking about the exceptional performance of female athletes, and in particular para athletes. He then specifically mentioned Ms Leary as an example of one of these para athletes and ended the paragraph with several of her significant sporting achievements (albeit either side of an interjection by the member for Cooper).
56. The committee was confronted with two differing views on the interpretation of the Minister's words and the member for Cooper's actions, and both were persuasive in their own ways. Therefore, the committee attempted to resolve this element by applying an objective 'reasonable person' test.
57. The committee considered whether a reasonable person reading the member for Cooper's narrative in the post and listening to only the excerpt of the broadcast of the Minister saying 'most beautiful woman playing sport at the moment' could be misled into thinking the Minister was speaking to physical beauty. Also whether, when considering the wider speech on the QAS and the performance of our para athletes, and referencing Ms Leary's significant sporting achievements, a

⁶ Macquarie Dictionary Online, 'Mislead', accessed 6 November 2025 from https://app.macquariedictionary.com.au/?search_word_type=dictionary&word=misleading.

reasonable person on the balance of probabilities is likely to understand the Minister's words to be interpreted more broadly and with respect to her significant sporting achievements as a para athlete.

58. The committee had differing views on this issue and no determination was made on this element.

Element 3: Did the publishing of the misleading proceedings amount, or was intended or likely to amount, to an improper interference with the free exercise by the Assembly of its authority or functions; or the free performance by a member of the member's duties as a member?

59. In Report No. 110 in 2010, the former Members' Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee established a test based on the dictionary definition of improper, which included that it was 'inappropriate' and 'incorrect'; and noted judicial commentary that 'the term 'improper' is not a term of art, but simply refers to conduct which is inconsistent with the proper discharge of the person's duties, obligations, and responsibilities'.⁷
60. Therefore, the committee first considered if the member for Cooper's conduct, in posting the video and narrative she did to social media was improper. That is, was her conduct consistent with her duties, obligations or responsibilities as a member of parliament. In this respect the committee notes that both the Speaker and the Clerk advised that the post was likely to breach the Broadcast Footage Terms and Conditions.
61. A member of parliament's duties are broad. Such duties include, but are not limited to, '...legislating in parliament, representing their electorate in parliament, and in most cases, representing a political party.'⁸ As a member of the Opposition, part of the member for Cooper's parliamentary role is also to hold the government to account.
62. The member for Cooper submits in this respect that as part of her role as a member regarding government oversight:

The Video does relate to Government oversight. The Member's comments in the Video provide, on behalf of the community, oversight with respect to a Minister's conduct. The Video enhances rather than detracts from the Assembly's scrutinising function.

The Video is also relevant to the provision by the Assembly of a debate forum. If members do not feel that they can engage in free and open debate in the Assembly, then the Assembly's function would be restricted. However, this free and open debate cannot extend beyond reasonable boundaries; it cannot extend to members of Parliament being permitted to make offensive

⁷ Willers v R (1995) 125 FLR 22 at 225; Corporations Law (repealed) s 229; Southern Resources Ltd v Residues Treatment & Trading Co Ltd (1990) 56 SASR 455.

⁸ Ethics Committee, Report No. 189, 56th Parliament, Matter of Privilege referred by the Speaker on 12 October 2018 relating to an alleged contempt of Parliament by the Premier and Minister for Trade, p 14.

*or disparaging statements about portions of the Queensland community. The Member submits that by posting the Video, she was working to ensure that debate in the Assembly maintained a standard of decorum appropriate to the Parliamentary forum.*⁹

63. As noted above, rather than extracting eight words from a paragraph of 135 words, the member for Cooper should have included more of the Minister's words to provide more balanced argument.
64. The committee agrees that a high standard of decorum of debate should be observed by members and this should be both within and outside of the House. The time limitations placed on members by social media platforms with respect to the content they upload does not abrogate their responsibilities to ensure that content does not offend parliamentary rules.
65. Second, the committee considered if that conduct amounted to, or was intended or likely to amount to, an interference of the free performance by the Minister of his duties as a member.
66. There was no information in the Minister's submission about how his duties as a member or future duties as a member have been interfered with.
67. The member for Cooper argued that public criticism of a Minister does not reach the threshold required to hold a member in contempt, in this regard she stated:

*More broadly, the examples of contempt set out in section 37 assist in identifying the kind of conduct which will amount to a contempt. In relation to conduct directed at members, the examples include assaulting, obstructing or insulting, or threatening or bribing a member. Such overt, serious conduct would plainly amount or be intended to amount to the improper interference with the free performance of a member's duties. By contrast, the Member's public criticism in the Video does not rise (even close) to the severity of these aforementioned examples*¹⁰

68. The committee considered this argument from the member for Cooper to be cogent. The threshold to find a contempt under section 37 of the POQA is understandably high. It must be evidenced that a member's free performance of their duties has been improperly interfered with.
69. There was no evidence put forward to the committee, nor could the committee determine for itself, how the Minister's duties as member of parliament had been interfered with via the social media post. The committee notes that the Minister was and, once the committee reports to the House, remains free to make a personal explanation to explain how he had been misunderstood so that his opinion on the matter formed part of the public record.

⁹ Member for Cooper submission, 19 August 2025, p 8.

¹⁰ Member for Cooper submission, 19 August 2025, p 9.

70. Lastly, the committee considered whether there was an improper interference with the free exercise by the Assembly of its authority or functions.

71. Broadly relating to this, the Minister noted the impact on the democratic institution:

Such manipulation of parliamentary footage undermines the integrity of our democratic institution and misleads the public about the intent and content of parliamentary debate.

...

Misrepresentation of parliamentary proceedings not only damages the reputation of the individuals involved but also erodes public trust in our parliamentary system.¹¹

72. The member for Cooper argued that the video did not improperly interfere with the free exercise by the Assembly of its authority or functions:

Broadly speaking, the functions of the Assembly include law making for “the peace welfare and good government of” Queensland, approving Government expenditure, providing oversight with respect to Government conduct, and facilitating a debate forum.

The Video has not interfered with the Assembly’s law-making power. The Video has nothing to do with approval of Government expenditure.¹²

73. The member for Cooper also went on to discuss the role of the parliament as a forum for debate and government oversight which is discussed above, particularly:

The Video is also relevant to the provision by the Assembly of a debate forum. If members do not feel that they can engage in free and open debate in the Assembly, then the Assembly’s function would be restricted. However, this free and open debate cannot extend beyond reasonable boundaries; it cannot extend to members of Parliament being permitted to make offensive or disparaging statements about portions of the Queensland community. The Member submits that by posting the Video, she was working to ensure that debate in the Assembly maintained a standard of decorum appropriate to the Parliamentary forum.¹³

74. As was the case with the Minister’s free performance of his duties as a member, the committee could not determine how the member for Cooper’s conduct interfered with the free exercise of the Assembly of its authority or functions.

75. Based on this lack of evidence, and the high evidentiary threshold required by section 37, the committee determined that this element was not satisfied.

¹¹ Submission from Minister Mander (contained in Speaker’s Referral), 13 May 2025, p 9.

¹² Member for Cooper submission, 19 August 2025, pp 6-7.

¹³ Member for Cooper submission, 19 August 2025, p 8.

Contempt under section 58(3) of the POQA

Element 1: Was there a publication of a parliamentary record by the member?

76. Section 49 of the POQA defines parliamentary record:

- (1) A parliamentary record is a record relating to proceedings in the Assembly.*
- (2) A record relating to proceedings in the Assembly includes a record of proceedings in the Assembly.*
- (3) The record may be—*
 - (a) in any form; or*
 - (b) permanent or otherwise; or*
 - (c) made at the same time as the proceedings to which it relates or otherwise.*

Example— The record may be in audio or visual form and last only a short time

- 77. It is clear that a re-published broadcast of proceedings falls within the definition of a parliamentary record.
- 78. The member for Cooper accepted in her submission that she published a parliamentary record.
- 79. The committee determined that the first element was satisfied.

Element 2: Was that publication in contravention of a condition imposed by the Assembly?

- 80. Section 58 of the POQA provides that the Legislative Assembly may, at any time, impose conditions on the publication of a parliamentary record, including the broadcast of proceedings of Parliament. Any such conditions apply regardless of whether the parliamentary record has been published previously or whether the Assembly authorises or has authorised the publication.
- 81. An example provided at section 58(2) is:

Assume an audio or visual record of proceedings in the Assembly is published on the internet by an authorised publisher under section 51. The Assembly may impose conditions on the publication by the authorised publisher. The Assembly may also impose conditions on the publication by a person who has accessed the internet publication of a parliamentary record derived from that access.
- 82. The Legislative Assembly agreed to the current Broadcast Terms and Conditions on 12 November 2015.¹⁴

¹⁴ Record of Proceedings, 12 November 2015, pp 2830-2831.

83. The Broadcast Terms and Conditions are 'a condition imposed by the Assembly' pursuant to section 58 of the POQA and state:

*3. Excerpts of proceedings are to be placed in context so as to avoid any misrepresentation.*¹⁵

84. Therefore, the key question for the committee was whether the published excerpt of proceedings was placed in context to avoid any misrepresentation. The terms and conditions do not define misrepresentation therefore its ordinary meaning should be applied. The Macquarie Dictionary defines 'misrepresent' as 'to represent incorrectly, improperly, or falsely'.¹⁶

85. In his correspondence with the Speaker, as noted above, the Minister stated that the context of his contribution on the QAS Bill included referring to Ms Leary, as "beautiful" in the broader sense of character and contribution. He further states:

However, the video was selectively edited and presented in a manner that falsely implies I was making a superficial or inappropriate comment about Ms Leary's physical appearance.

86. In her submission the member for Cooper states that she did not misrepresent the Minister, and the inclusion of additional context was not required to avoid misrepresentation:

*More broadly, the Video draws attention to the Minister's choice of language (intentional or otherwise) in describing a female Paralympian. The post emphasises that the comments were made in the context of a parliamentary debate including the need for transparency around funding and support for female athletes. The Video is a criticism of the Minister's poor choice of language, but it does not violate a condition under 58(3).*¹⁷

87. As with the allegation above, the member for Cooper made a number of arguments for why the video was in context and avoided misrepresentation.
88. First, the member for Cooper submitted that context to the extracted statement provides no clarification as to why Ms Leary's beauty is relevant to the Minister's speech; that there is no apparent link between the statistics of male and female athletes and a personal, subjective statement specific to Ms Leary. She said that inclusion of the context therefore provides no further contextual meaning for the word "beautiful" and exclusion of the words surrounding the extracted statement do not change its meaning. The context does not make clear whether the Minister is referring to Ms Leary's physical appearance, character, or contribution to sport.
89. Second, the member for Cooper considers the Minister's statements 'most beautiful woman that's playing sport at the moment' and 'she is just a delight to be around' are disjunctive and do not qualify or clarify the extracted wording she used in the post and are instead a list of Ms Leary's (unrelated) attributes. She argues that a

¹⁵ Queensland Parliament, Broadcast Footage Terms and Conditions: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Live-and-Archived-Broadcasts/Terms-and-Conditions>.

¹⁶ Macquarie Dictionary Online, accessed from: https://app.macquariedictionary.com.au/?search_word_type=dictionary&word=misrepresent%20 on 6 November 2025.

¹⁷ Member for Cooper submission, 19 August 2025, p 11.

sensible reading is that the Minister considers Ms Leary to be both, but separately, a beautiful woman and a pleasure to be around.

90. Third, the member for Cooper submitted that the phrase ‘beautiful woman’ brings a woman’s gender to the fore of the extracted statement. Given the Minister’s use of those words, the member for Cooper’s key message in the video relates to and highlights disparities between the sexes in sport thus the member for Cooper’s and the Minister’s messages are aligned.
91. Fourth, the Minister said, “beautiful woman”, rather than ‘beautiful person’ or ‘beautiful man’ which have notably different connotations to those of the Minister’s phrase. The member for Cooper submitted that we live in a society where women’s beauty is usually associated with physical appearance and viewed in this context, the Minister more likely than not referred to Ms Leary’s physical attributes.
92. Fifth, in the video, the member for Cooper states that she factually introduced the extracted statement by saying that ‘Queensland’s Sports Minister referred to paralympian and all-round superstar, Alexa Leary, as.’ Reference to the statistics mentioned by the Minister in the surrounding context would not have changed the meaning of the extracted statement.
93. Sixth, the member for Cooper argues that a reasonable member of the public observing the relevant sitting of parliament could have inferred that the Minister was referring to Ms Leary’s appearance and this interpretation is open to an objective observer watching the video, with or without the additional context.
94. Finally, the member for Cooper distinguishes this matter from other matters in which the relevant publication included an answer to a question or interjections that would necessitate inclusion to provide context.
95. The committee discussed at length the member for Cooper’s submissions regarding her interpretation and views on the Minister’s words. However, as noted above, ultimately the issue before the committee was not the appropriateness of the Minister’s words or the member for Cooper’s interpretation of or opinion on those words. The issue for the committee was whether the excerpt of proceedings used by the member for Cooper was placed in context to avoid misrepresentation in accordance with the Broadcast Terms and Conditions.
96. In the paragraphs around the excerpt used by the member for Cooper, the Minister, in addition to describing Ms Leary as cheery, beautiful and a delight to be around, also spoke about:
 - the work of the QAS
 - the athletes’ results in the Paris Olympics
 - the 23 female and 17 male Olympic athletes
 - that 36% of paralympic athletes were female
 - Ms Leary’s sporting achievements which include gold in the 100-metre freestyle, record in the mixed 4 x 100-metre medley, silver in the mixed 4 x 100-metre freestyle
 - the work of the QAS to foster women in coaching, and
 - that 54% of athletes and 52% of coaches at the QAS are female.

97. The committee concluded that the above matters provide context that was not included in the excerpt used by the member for Cooper in her social media post.
98. To reduce the Minister's lengthy contribution to the House to eight words excluded that context. This was further compounded by the member for Cooper's commentary before and after the extract of the Minister's speech.
99. Accordingly, the committee determined that the excerpt of proceedings was not placed in context so as to avoid misrepresentation and therefore amounts to a breach of the Broadcast Terms and Conditions.
100. On this basis, the committee determined that the second element is satisfied.

Conclusions

101. The committee did not establish a contempt under section 37 of the POQA and Standing Order 266(13), as the threshold in element three was not met.
102. With respect to the allegation of contempt under section 58(3) of the POQA, the committee found that both elements could be satisfied on the balance of probabilities and therefore a contempt is established.

Penalty

103. Standing Order 270(5) requires the committee to recommend in its report any action that should be taken.
104. In considering an appropriate penalty, the committee sought to review previous penalties imposed for similar contempts and considered the member for Cooper's submission on an appropriate penalty.
105. There has only been one finding of contempt in relation to section 58(3) of the POQA, and that was in Report No. 181 concerning Ms Dee Madigan.¹⁸
106. In that matter, the committee found that a post Ms Madigan had published on Twitter did amount to a breach of the Parliament's Broadcast Terms and Conditions and was a contempt of Parliament. However, no penalty was recommended. In this regard, the report states at [33]-[35]:

We find it disappointing to see any person, more so one with a public profile, deliberately disrespect the rules of a democratically elected Parliament. We note that in contrast all due respect has been shown to Ms Madigan in bringing the breach to her attention and providing ample opportunities to rectify the breach and avoid further action.

We strongly encourage all individuals to comply with the rules established by the Parliament. If a member of the community considers that Parliamentary rules or indeed laws made by the Parliament are inappropriate, there are processes in place for review of those rules or laws.

This particular contempt is, bearing in mind the principle behind the rule, relatively minor. While section 39 of the POQA provides that we could

¹⁸ Ethics Committee, Report No. 181, 56th Parliament, Inquiry into matters relating to a Matter of Privilege referred by the Speaker on 15 June 2018 relating to a breach of the Broadcast Terms and Conditions.

ultimately recommend the Assembly impose a penalty, in this instance we recommend no further action be taken.

107. Making a finding of contempt against a member of Parliament versus a member of the public requires different considerations. In the matter of Ms Madigan, the committee may have recommended an apology or that she remove the content in question, but ultimately if she chose not to abide by the committee's recommendations, there was very little remit available other than firm condemnation. On the other hand, a member of Parliament not abiding by the committee's recommendations would have more significant consequences and could see the House taking further steps such as suspension, a fine or admonishment.
108. The committee agrees with the commentary of the past precedent, as well as the submission put forward by the member for Cooper that the contempt in this matter is of a low level, due to the lower threshold required to find a contempt under section 58(3) of the POQA, as opposed to under section 37 of the POQA.
109. The committee considers that an unequivocal apology to the House by the member for Cooper be an appropriate penalty.



Recommendation 1

That the House make a finding of contempt against the member for Cooper for breaching a condition of the Broadcast Footage Terms and Conditions in accordance with section 58(3) of the POQA and that the member for Cooper make an unequivocal apology to the House at the earliest opportunity.

Committee comments

Member conduct

110. As noted above, the member for Cooper missed multiple deadlines to provide a submission to the committee.
111. For the committee to operate effectively, it is imperative that members engage fully and respect the committee and its processes including meeting the timeframes provided by the committee.
112. The committee accepts that from time to time, matters arise which may necessitate a member seeking an extension. Where reasonable the committee, usually by agreement of the Chair and Deputy Chair, will grant extension requests.
113. In this matter, the committee strove to ensure the member for Cooper was provided with an opportunity to respond to the allegations by granting three extension requests. However, the member for Cooper's failure to meet, or to even advise the committee that she could not meet three timeframes, two of which were extensions requested by the member for Cooper herself, was disrespectful to the committee.
114. The committee reminds members that, under Standing Order 270(4)(c), where a member does not respond to a request under 270(1)(b) within a reasonable period, the committee must report to the House on the matter referred to it upon the

expiration of the timeframe provided. The committee notes in this respect, that it was open to the committee to report to the House without awaiting the member's submission.

115. Accordingly, the committee cautions members that such a lack of engagement with the Ethics Committee is not in the interests of the committee, of members the subject of referrals or indeed of the House itself which is to consider the reports and any recommendations of this committee.

Broadcast Footage Terms and Conditions

116. The Ethics Committee of the 57th Parliament recommended in Report No. 232 that the Committee of the Legislative Assembly (CLA) review the Broadcast Footage Terms and Conditions 'as a matter of urgency', as a result of the rapid changes to the social media landscape since they were adopted in 2015.¹⁹
117. The committee is not aware of any such review and no response has been received regarding this recommendation.
118. The Clerk recently advised the committee that allegations of breaches of the Broadcast Footage Terms and Conditions are increasing in number. To deal with each allegation requires significant resources from the Office of the Clerk and the Speaker's Office.
119. Therefore, the Ethics Committee again recommends that the CLA either review the Broadcast Footage Terms and Conditions itself, or refer such a review to the Clerk, to ensure the Terms and Conditions appropriately reflect the now widespread social media use by members of Parliament.



Recommendation 2

That the Committee of the Legislative Assembly, or the Clerk, review and amend the Broadcast Footage Terms and Conditions, as a matter of urgency, to reflect the widespread use of social media by members of Parliament.

Mr Ray Stevens

Chair

December 2025

¹⁹ Ethics Committee, Report No. 232, 57th Parliament, Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 7 June 2024 relating to an allegation of publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings of the House.

ETHICS COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

Standing Order 211B(3) provides that when the Ethics Committee makes its final report to the House on a matter, the committee shall at the same time, table in the House:

- (a) The minutes of its proceedings relevant to the matter; and
- (b) Any submissions received or evidence taken in respect of the matter (including transcripts of hearings) unless the committee resolves that some or all of its proceedings remain confidential.

The relevant minutes and evidence in respect of this matter are attached to this report. Duplicated attachments have been removed.

EXTRACT OF MINUTES –

**MATTER OF PRIVILEGE REFERRED BY THE SPEAKER ON 22 MAY 2025
RELATING TO AN ALLEGATION OF A BREACH OF THE BROADCAST TERMS AND
CONDITIONS AND PUBLISHING A FALSE OR MISLEADING ACCOUNT OF
PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE BY THE MEMBER FOR COOPER**



Ethics Committee

Meeting No. 8b
Wednesday, 11 June 2025, 1.03pm
Parliamentary Annexe, Room 5.30

Present	Mr Ray Stevens MP, member for Mermaid Beach, Chair Mr Peter Russo MP, member for Toohey, Deputy Chair Dr Christian Rowan MP, member for Moggill (substitute under SO 272(2)) Mr Michael Crandon MP, member for Coomera Ms Jennifer Howard MP, member for Ipswich Hon Leanne Linard MP, member for Nudgee
In attendance	Ms Amanda Honeyman, Committee Secretary Ms Rebecca Meehan, Legal and Compliance Officer Ms Erin Hastie, Acting First Clerk Assistant (Committees)

Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 22 May 2025 relating to an allegation of a breach of the broadcast terms and conditions and publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings of the House by the Member for Cooper

The Speaker's referral and secretariat's briefing and draft letters were circulated.

Discussion ensued.

The committee discussed its processes under SO 270.

Resolved

The committee amended the draft letters to correct a date from 'Friday' to 'Wednesday' 25 June 2025.

That the committee further consider the matter and write to:

- i. the member for Cooper seeking a written submission in response to the allegations under Standing Order 270(1)(b) with the letter to be settled by the Chair and Deputy Chair, and
- ii. the minister seeking further information under Standing Order 270(1)(d) in the terms of the draft letter provided.

Moved: Dr Rowan

EXTRACT OF MINUTES –

**MATTER OF PRIVILEGE REFERRED BY THE SPEAKER ON 22 MAY 2025
RELATING TO AN ALLEGATION OF A BREACH OF THE BROADCAST TERMS AND
CONDITIONS AND PUBLISHING A FALSE OR MISLEADING ACCOUNT OF
PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE BY THE MEMBER FOR COOPER**



Ethics Committee

Meeting No. 12
Wednesday, 27 August 2025, 1.01pm
Parliamentary Annexe, Room 5.30

Present

Mr Ray Stevens MP, member for Mermaid Beach, Chair
Mr Peter Russo MP, member for Toohey, Deputy Chair
Mr Michael Crandon MP, member for Coomera
Ms Corrine McMillan MP, member for Mansfield (substitute under SO 202)
Mr Linus Power MP, member for Logan (substitute under SO 202)
Dr Christian Rowan MP, Leader of the House, member for Moggill (substitute under SO 272(2))

In attendance

Ms Amanda Honeyman, Committee Secretary
Ms Rebecca Meehan, Legal and Compliance Officer

Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 22 May 2025 relating to an allegation of a breach of the broadcast terms and conditions and publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings of the House by the Member for Cooper

The member's submission and the secretariat's briefing were circulated.

Discussion ensued.

Resolved

That the committee write to the member for Cooper seeking further information on the use of the term 'beautiful', the reasons for delay in responding and the timing of the removal of the social media posts, with the contents of the letter to be settled by the Chair and Deputy Chair.

Moved: Mr Stevens

EXTRACT OF MINUTES –

**MATTER OF PRIVILEGE REFERRED BY THE SPEAKER ON 22 MAY 2025
RELATING TO AN ALLEGATION OF A BREACH OF THE BROADCAST TERMS AND
CONDITIONS AND PUBLISHING A FALSE OR MISLEADING ACCOUNT OF
PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE BY THE MEMBER FOR COOPER**



Ethics Committee

Meeting No. 16
Wednesday, 17 September 2025, 1.07pm
Parliamentary Annexe, Room 5.30

Present

Mr Ray Stevens MP, member for Mermaid Beach, Chair
Mr Peter Russo MP, member for Toohey, Deputy Chair
Mr Michael Crandon MP, member for Coomera
Ms Jennifer Howard MP, member for Ipswich
Hon Leanne Linard MP, member for Nudgee
Dr Christian Rowan MP, Leader of the House, member for Moggill (substitute under SO 272(2))

In attendance

Ms Amanda Honeyman, Committee Secretary
Ms Rebecca Meehan, Legal and Compliance Officer

Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 22 May 2025 relating to an allegation of a breach of the broadcast terms and conditions and publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings of the House by the Member for Cooper

The member's further response and the secretariat's briefing were circulated.

Discussion ensued.

The committee agreed to invite the Clerk of the Parliament to the next meeting.

EXTRACT OF MINUTES –

**MATTER OF PRIVILEGE REFERRED BY THE SPEAKER ON 22 MAY 2025
RELATING TO AN ALLEGATION OF A BREACH OF THE BROADCAST TERMS AND
CONDITIONS AND PUBLISHING A FALSE OR MISLEADING ACCOUNT OF
PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE BY THE MEMBER FOR COOPER**



Ethics Committee

Meeting No. 18
Wednesday, 15 October 2025, 1.00pm
Parliamentary Annexe, Room 5.30

Present

Mr Ray Stevens MP, member for Mermaid Beach, Chair
Mr Peter Russo MP, member for Toohey, Deputy Chair
Mr Michael Crandon MP, member for Coomera
Ms Jennifer Howard MP, member for Ipswich
Hon Leanne Linard MP, member for Nudgee
Dr Christian Rowan MP, Leader of the House, member for Moggill (substitute under SO 272(2))

In attendance

Ms Amanda Honeyman, Committee Secretary
Ms Rebecca Meehan, Legal and Compliance Officer
Mr Neil Laurie, Clerk of the Parliament

Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 22 May 2025 relating to an allegation of a breach of the broadcast terms and conditions and publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings of the House by the Member for Cooper

The member's further response and the secretariat's briefing were circulated.

Discussion ensued.

The Clerk left the meeting at 1.37pm.

Discussion ensued.

The committee agreed to hold over the matter until next meeting.

EXTRACT OF MINUTES –

**MATTER OF PRIVILEGE REFERRED BY THE SPEAKER ON 22 MAY 2025
RELATING TO AN ALLEGATION OF A BREACH OF THE BROADCAST TERMS AND
CONDITIONS AND PUBLISHING A FALSE OR MISLEADING ACCOUNT OF
PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE BY THE MEMBER FOR COOPER**



Ethics Committee

Meeting No. 19
Wednesday, 29 October 2025, 1.01pm
Parliamentary Annexe, Room 5.30

Present

Mr Ray Stevens MP, member for Mermaid Beach, Chair
Mr Peter Russo MP, member for Toohey, Deputy Chair
Mr Michael Crandon MP, member for Coomera
Ms Jennifer Howard MP, member for Ipswich
Hon Leanne Linard MP, member for Nudgee
Dr Christian Rowan MP, Leader of the House, member for Moggill (substitute under SO 272(2))

In attendance

Ms Amanda Honeyman, Committee Secretary
Ms Rebecca Meehan, Legal and Compliance Officer

Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 22 May 2025 relating to an allegation of a breach of the broadcast terms and conditions and publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings of the House by the Member for Cooper

The secretariat's briefing and draft letter was circulated.

Discussion ensued.

The committee agreed to minor amendments to the draft letter.

Resolved

That the committee make a finding that the member for Cooper is not in contempt under Standing Order 266(13).

Moved: Mr Russo

Resolved

That the committee:

- (1) Make a preliminary finding of contempt pursuant to section 58(3) of the Parliament of Queensland Act, and
- (2) Write to the member for Cooper, in the terms of the draft letter provided, as amended, to advised of its preliminary finding and seek a submission on penalty.

Moved: Mr Russo.

EXTRACT OF MINUTES –

**MATTER OF PRIVILEGE REFERRED BY THE SPEAKER ON 22 MAY 2025
RELATING TO AN ALLEGATION OF A BREACH OF THE BROADCAST TERMS AND
CONDITIONS AND PUBLISHING A FALSE OR MISLEADING ACCOUNT OF
PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE BY THE MEMBER FOR COOPER**



Ethics Committee

Meeting No. 21

Wednesday, 19 November 2025, 1.00pm

Parliamentary Annexe, Room 5.30

Present

Mr Ray Stevens MP, member for Mermaid Beach, Chair

Mr Peter Russo MP, member for Toohey, Deputy Chair

Mr Michael Crandon MP, member for Coomera

Ms Jennifer Howard MP, member for Ipswich

Hon Leanne Linard MP, member for Nudgee

Dr Christian Rowan MP, Leader of the House, member for Moggill (substitute under SO 272(2))

In attendance

Ms Amanda Honeyman, Committee Secretary

Ms Rebecca Meehan, Legal and Compliance Officer

Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 22 May 2025 relating to an allegation of a breach of the broadcast terms and conditions and publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings of the House by the Member for Cooper

The member's submission, secretariat's briefing, draft report and correspondence were circulated.

Discussion ensued.

Resolved

That in accordance with Standing Order 270(5), in its report on this matter, the committee recommend the member for Cooper make an unequivocal apology to the House at the earliest opportunity.

Moved: Dr Rowan

The committee considered the Chair's draft report.

EXTRACT OF MINUTES –

**MATTER OF PRIVILEGE REFERRED BY THE SPEAKER ON 22 MAY 2025
RELATING TO AN ALLEGATION OF A BREACH OF THE BROADCAST TERMS AND
CONDITIONS AND PUBLISHING A FALSE OR MISLEADING ACCOUNT OF
PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE BY THE MEMBER FOR COOPER**



Ethics Committee

Meeting No. 22
Wednesday, 10 December 2025, 1.05pm
Parliamentary Annexe, Room 5.30

- Present**
- Mr Ray Stevens MP, member for Mermaid Beach, Chair
 - Mr Peter Russo MP, member for Toohey, Deputy Chair
 - Mr Michael Crandon MP, member for Coomera
 - Ms Jennifer Howard MP, member for Ipswich
 - Hon Leanne Linard MP, member for Nudgee
 - Dr Christian Rowan MP, Leader of the House, member for Moggill (substitute under SO 272(2))
- In attendance**
- Ms Amanda Honeyman, Committee Secretary
 - Ms Tamara Vitale, Executive Secretary

Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 22 May 2025 relating to an allegation of a breach of the broadcast terms and conditions and publishing a false and misleading account of proceedings of the House by the member for Cooper

The draft report and a copy of correspondence to be tabled with the report, redacted to remove personal contact details and remove duplicates, was circulated.

Discussion ensued.

The Committee amended the draft report.

Resolved

That the committee:

1. adopts the draft report, as amended, as Report No. 240 of the Ethics Committee and authorises its tabling and publication, and
2. table the following correspondence with Report No. 240, as redacted:
 - Referral from the Speaker, dated 23 May 2025
 - Email from Hon Mander MP, dated 3 June 2025
 - Letter to Ms Bush MP, dated 12 June 2025
 - Letter to Hon Mander MP, dated 12 June 2025
 - Email from Ms Bush MP, dated 18 June 2025
 - Email to Ms Bush MP, dated 1 July 2025
 - Email from Ms Bush MP, dated 1 July 2025
 - Email to Hon Mander MP, dated 1 July 2025

- Email to Ms Bush MP, dated 2 July 2025
- Email from Hon Mander MP, dated 3 July 2025
- Email to Ms Bush MP, dated 22 July 2025
- Email from Ms Bush MP, dated 29 July 2025
- Email to Ms Bush MP, dated 31 July 2025
- Letter from Hon Mander MP, received 6 August 2025
- Email from Ms Bush MP, dated 15 August 2025
- Email to Ms Bush MP, dated 18 August 2025
- Letter from Results Legal on behalf of Ms Bush, dated 19 August 2025
- Letter to Ms Bush MP, dated 28 August 2025
- Letter from Ms Bush MP, dated 11 September 2025
- Letter to Ms Bush MP, dated 29 October 2025
- Letter from Ms Bush MP, dated 10 November 2025.

Moved: Mr Russo

Extracts certified correct on 10 December 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray Stevens', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ray Stevens MP
Chair



Our ref: your ref: 250523-OUT-Ethics Committee

23 May 2025

Mr Ray Stevens MP
Chair
Ethics Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

By E-mail: ethics@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Ray

I refer to my statement (enclosed) made in the House yesterday afternoon during Address in Reply, in relation to the allegation the member for Cooper published a false or misleading account of proceedings of the House on various social media pages on 8 May 2025 and subsequent comments on the same topic made during private members statements on 22 May 2025.

In addition to my statement, I enclose relevant correspondence.

Accordingly, under Standing Order 269, I formally refer this matter to the Ethics Committee for consideration and report.

Yours sincerely

HON PAT WEIR MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly


Enc.

Parliament House
George St Brisbane Queensland 4000 Australia

Phone + 61 7 3553 6700
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Web www.parliament.qld.gov.au

~~Do members want to know what this government is really about? The Crisafulli government is a government of political self interest, not the interests of ordinary Queenslanders. It has delayed much needed new hospital infrastructure, it has axed around 1,000 new affordable homes, it was dishonest about the Callide Power Station and it appointed to the Queensland Redistribution Commission a person nominated by Tony Fitzgerald as a compromised individual. This is not a normal, sensible Queensland government. The LNP in Queensland is ideologically driven and led by a bunch of out of touch, right wing whingers.~~

Bribie Island

 **Ms MORTON** (Caloundra—LNP) (2.03 pm): ~~I rise today to speak about an issue that is near and dear to me and my entire community: the breakthrough of Bribie Island into the Pumicestone Passage and the risk to our town, particularly Golden Beach. We watched our island break through in early 2022 after ex-Tropical Cyclone Seth. The storm surge broke through an island that was a known vulnerability for 20 years. Our local champions had been raising this issue for the past decade, but, unfortunately and devastatingly, it had fallen on deaf ears.~~

~~The former Labor member for Caloundra not once uttered the words 'Bribie Island' in this chamber, an indication of no interest whatsoever in this issue. Imagine if the former government had taken action back then, before a second breakthrough occurred and further extreme narrowing of our island—~~

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): ~~Members to my left, the member is not taking interjections.~~


Ms MORTON: ~~It may have been easier and cheaper to fix it and not have our community in the position it is in today.~~

~~I want to assure the Caloundra community: you are being heard. During 2024, when the former government continued to ignore your pleas for help, our voice got stronger. We listened and, with the help of the member for Bonney, the former shadow environment minister, we established without a shadow of a doubt that the former government had made a decision, and that decision was that there would be no action. Inaction is a decision. This inaction left the Caloundra community at risk—a risk that this government is not willing to take. We have launched our review into Bribie Island and the Pumicestone Passage. There has never been a review like this that allows our local community to have their say on an issue that is so important. We have received almost 1,200 individual submissions to the reviewers, who are experts in their field. We have engaged these experts and welcomed locals to have an opinion.~~

~~This is a government that listens. This is a team that allowed me, as a new member of parliament, to bring this issue forward and listened when I fought for our community. This is not just another report, another inquiry, another business case or case study; this is to gather quality, evidence-based solutions to establish what viable solutions are available given the current state of the island, which is not good.~~

~~We have seen Lions Park wash away—an icon for our locals. Can you imagine just for a moment what it is like to have part of your recreational space that has been there for decades simply wash away? This is serious and for the Caloundra community who spoke loudly for 10 years not a surprise. I will continue to advocate for the Caloundra community when nobody else has.~~

Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (2.06 pm): ~~Last weekend I got along to my 12-year-old daughter's basketball game. I do not always get the chance to get to her games. When I do I am always filled with pride, but this week I actually had a tear in my eye as I watched these girls, who turn up each week and who work so hard to please their coaches and to make their parents proud—girls who train hard but who already, at 12, have endured comments about their body shape, their appearance and their abilities yet keep showing up and playing the sport they love. I tear up because I know what is ahead of them.~~

~~These girls will face barriers in sport that men will never realise—having to play through the pain and discomfort of menstruation, getting changed behind trees because there are no female change rooms, having games cancelled because there are not enough refs for the men's and the women's games. Girls and women who play sport are champions, and the women who make it to the elite level are heroes who should be celebrated for their strength, commitment, endurance, discipline and~~

courage. That is why the comments made in this House by the sport minister, describing female Paralympian Alexa Leary as 'cheery' and 'beautiful' are absolutely offensive.

Mr MANDER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at that. It is an issue I have already written to the Speaker about. I ask that it be withdrawn.

Ms BUSH: I withdraw. Women in sport have fought long and hard to be respected for their talent and determination, not reduced to their appearance or demeanour. Language matters. When I called out the minister's language online, rather than take the opportunity to get—

Mr MANDER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at that and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Ms BUSH: I am happy to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): The member has taken personal offence. I ask you to withdraw.

Ms BUSH: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, I ask you to withdraw.

Ms BUSH: I withdraw. Sorry, Mr Deputy Speaker; I thought I said that.

He wrote to me and asked me to remove my post, stating that it was clearly referring to her character and her contribution. Let's talk about her contributions. Alexa Leary is an accomplished triathlete who suffered a cycling crash, incurring multiple fractures and major brain damage. She had to learn to walk again. She then went on to defy medical expectations to transition to para swimming and at the Paris Paralympics secured two gold medals and broke two world records. I am incredulous that the sport minister would choose words like 'cheery' and 'beautiful' to describe her contributions.

Mr MANDER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Not only do I take offence; Alexa Leary's family takes offence—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member—

Mr MANDER:—at the weaponisation of those comments.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member!

Mr MANDER: I ask that she withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, take your seat, please.

Ms BUSH: I am happy to withdraw.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Clearly, the member for Everton is harassing the Speaker—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Take your seat, please.

Mr BAILEY:—with frivolous points of order—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Take your seat.

Mr BAILEY:—on matters—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Take your seat, please, member! Member, would you withdraw?

Ms BUSH: I am happy to withdraw. Rather than asking me to censor my post, the minister's time would be better spent reviewing the long and ongoing history of women fighting for equality in sport on the field, in appointments and in funding allocations. The sport minister's comments are disgraceful and I call—

Mr MANDER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Despite me—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I just need your point of order.

Mr MANDER: I am telling you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Despite me taking offence at every comment she is making—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I just need your point of order.

Mr MANDER:—which is the same thing, she is insisting—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I do not want to argue with you.

Mr MANDER: I take offence and ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Take your seat. Member, please withdraw.

Ms BUSH: I withdraw. This is the person responsible for championing women's sport in Queensland. It is offensive to women. The Speaker's office has written to me and stated that I may have offended standing orders in posting my original video and has asked that I apologise to the House. It was not my intention to reflect poorly on the House so at the Speaker's direction I will remove my original post and I do apologise unreservedly to the member and to the House.

Mr MANDER: I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. After offending me in three or four comments in her delivery, the member for Cooper then tries to apologise for the comments. The apology means nothing.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Take your seat.

Mr MANDER: I will be writing to the Speaker about the issue.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will have quiet while I get some advice. Member, that is not a matter of privilege arising. If you have an issue you write to the Speaker.


Housing

 **Mr HUTTON** (Keppel LNP) (2.11 pm): I rise to speak on behalf of the people of Keppel who voted for a fresh start and have been calling out for action on housing because every Queenslanders deserves to have a place to call home. Over the past decade we have all witnessed the declining housing approvals, the record low rental vacancy rates and record high homelessness rates. Just like the rest of the state, many people in Central Queensland are feeling the legacy of the former government's housing crisis.

I am proud to be part of the Crisafulli government that is stepping up. Our party went to the election promising to deliver a place to call home for more Queenslanders. I acknowledge this will not happen overnight, but with a legacy of Queenslanders languishing for years on social housing waiting lists across the state, the time for change is now. Earlier I met with the CEO of AnglicareCQ to hear of the work that her agency is doing across Central Queensland. She also outlined the challenges the sector is facing in addressing the housing need. We want to hear and understand the challenges so we can break down those barriers. During our chat I was proud to share the steps taken by our government. We have established the Ministerial Housing Taskforce and amended the Queensland planning framework to unlock church and charity owned land for vital community housing. We have appointed Peta Harwood as the Queensland State Planner with a priority on partnering with local governments and communities to unlock more land to enable housing approvals. In February we abolished stamp duty on new homes for first home buyers, saving first home buyers thousands of dollars on upfront costs and unlocking home ownership for more Queenslanders while also adding more supply to the housing market.

There is more to do and I am up for the work. I am keen to make a difference. Government, not for profits, developers and the sector can achieve great things by working together to achieve a lasting legacy for families across the state. This is vital work. Why? Because every Queenslanders deserves a place to call home.

Energy

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee ALP) (2.14 pm): On Saturday, 3 May, Queenslanders overwhelmingly rejected Peter Dutton and the LNP's nuclear plan. When Queenslanders cast their vote at the recent federal election they said no to the federal coalition's plan for seven nuclear reactors—two right here in Queensland—because Queenslanders know that it was never going to deliver cheaper power. Queenslanders said no because they know it was never going to happen, period. Nuclear power is incredibly expensive and it takes a very long time to build. The cost and the building time always blows out substantially. Look at the most recent example, the new nuclear plant in the US state of Georgia: seven years longer to build than they expected, while the cost jumped 260 per cent to US\$35 billion. It is now producing the world's most expensive power and that has had a big impact on power bills for local residents.

What we saw on election day was Queenslanders wanting to vote for real action on climate change, real progress on renewable energy and emissions reduction targets on a credible pathway to net zero. What a shame it was that throughout the federal campaign we had a state government that delivered radio silence on their fellow LNP colleagues' nuclear plan, another example of their ongoing and tired small target playbook. One cannot be a small target in government, as much as they might

(MR SPEAKER)

SPEAKER'S RULING – ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

MR SPEAKER Honourable members,

On 13 May 2025, the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for Olympic and Paralympic Games (the Minister) wrote to me alleging that the member for Cooper (the Member) breached the Broadcast Footage Terms and Conditions and published a false or misleading account of proceedings on 8 May 2025.

The matter relates to a video excerpt of the broadcast of proceedings that the Member posted on her various social media pages on 8 May 2025. The video involved both commentary by the Member and two short excerpts of the Minister speaking during the second reading debate of the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill.

Specifically, the Minister stated:

'I want to take the opportunity to highlight one of our superstars, Alexa Leary, who has to be the cheeriest, most beautiful woman playing sport at the moment. She is just a delight to be around. She won gold in the women's 100-metre freestyle'.

In the video on her social media pages, the Member only used the following words spoken by the Minister:

'most beautiful woman playing sport'.

The Minister argued that the excerpts were misleading. The Minister also alleged that the video contravened section 58 of the *Parliament of*

Queensland Act 2001 by contravening the Broadcast Footage Terms and Conditions for not providing sufficient context.

The Minister had initially contacted the Clerk on Friday 9 May about the matter, and the Clerk then attempted to contact the Member by phone and later, in a text, suggested that the video be taken down. The Clerk followed this up with an email on Monday 12 May.

The Minister also reached out personally to the Member to request the video be taken down.

In her response to the Clerk, the Member stated:

'Happy to take the post down on your advice, however I would challenge any complaint as the Minister's words speak for themselves and I made an effort to not decontextualise the clips'

While the video was removed from Facebook after the Clerk's email request, it remained on both Instagram and TikTok.

The Member later responded directly to the Minister in a letter and published that letter on her LinkedIn page. In that letter she stated that she has concluded that her summary in the video was both fair and accurate. She stated that she was respectfully declining the Minister's request to remove the video.

Standing Order 269(4) requires that in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, I should take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter.

I did so, and then I wrote to the member for Cooper on 20 May 2025 advising that I was of the opinion that the post in question offends the Broadest Terms and Conditions, and that there is an arguable case that it is also a false and misleading account of proceedings before the House. I requested that the member remove the posts and make an apology to the House in either matters of privilege or personal explanations in the morning session.

I note that no such apology was made in the times requested and that the video remained on the member's Instagram and TikTok pages.

Rather, the member chose to 'double down' and raise the matter in the House this afternoon making a number of comments about the Minister that were required to be withdrawn and then finally apologising and indicating that the posts will be withdrawn.

In its Report No.232 tabled in 2024 the Ethics Committee noted that members needed to use social media responsibly, particularly in a society that is highly cognisant of social media impacts and harm. That report led to the Code of Ethical Standards for members to include being respectful to other members of parliament.

I do not believe that the member has provided an adequate explanation or apology and based on the fact that the member has ignored requests from both myself and the Clerk of the Parliament, I will be referring the matter to the Ethics Committee.

I remind members that standing order 271 now applies and members should not refer to this matter in the House.*

*check against delivery



The Honourable Tim Mander MP
Minister for Sport and Racing and
Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games

File dated: 13 May 2025

1 William Street
Brisbane Queensland 4000
PO Box 15478
City East Queensland 4002
Email sport@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Hon. Pat Weir MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Via email: speaker@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Honourable Speaker,

RE: Breach of Standing Orders – Misuse of Parliamentary Video Material

I write to bring to your attention a matter concerning the conduct of a Member of Parliament that I believe constitutes a breach of Standing Orders and warrants your consideration.

It has come to my attention that Ms Jonty Bush MP has circulated an edited video clip of proceedings from Parliament in which my speech to the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill has been deliberately taken out of context. In the original remarks, I clearly referred to a Paralympic athlete Alexa Leary as "beautiful" in the broader sense of character and contribution. However, the video was selectively edited and presented in a manner that falsely implies I was making a superficial or inappropriate comment about Ms Leary's physical appearance. As far as I am aware, this video has been shared to Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.

Such manipulation of parliamentary footage undermines the integrity of our democratic institution and misleads the public about the intent and content of parliamentary debate. It is my view that this action violates the Standing Orders and the rules governing the use of parliamentary broadcast material, which I understand prohibit its use in a misleading or defamatory manner.

In similar instances contempt has been found by the ethics committee previously and I make reference to former Speaker Pitt's warning to former Minister Fentiman last year regarding her use of video footage towards former Shadow Minister Bates. Please also refer to the subsequent Ethics Committee report No. 232 in September last year in which such violations were discussed at length. Moreover, I would like to specifically bring your attention to section 50 and section 58 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 regarding the authorisation of publications and the Assembly's ability to impose conditions on the publication of parliamentary records respectively. I find it crucial to also bring reference to the conditions of access for the use of parliamentary broadcast material in which I believe Ms Bush has clearly violated by using these excerpts out of context to misrepresent my comments.

I respectfully urge you to investigate this matter and take any appropriate steps to uphold these ethical standards. Misrepresentation of parliamentary proceedings not only damages the reputation of the individuals involved but also erodes public trust in our parliamentary system.

I would appreciate if you could also consider referring this matter to the ethics committee.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tim Mander". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

The Honourable Tim Mander MP
Minister for Sport and Racing and
Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games



Your Ref:

Our Ref: 250520-OUT-Cooper

20 May 2025

Jonty Bush MP
Member for Cooper
Shop 2
230 Waterworks Road
Ashgrove Qld 4060

By E-mail: cooper@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Jonty

I write regarding allegations by the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for Olympic and Paralympic games that you breached the Broadcast Footage Terms and Conditions with a video posted on your social media pages on 8 May 2025.

I understand that the Clerk attempted to contact you by phone on 9 May 2025, contacted you by text message on 9 May 2025 and by email on 12 May 2025. The Clerk advised you that it was his opinion that the video in question offended the Broadcast Footage Terms and Conditions and he requested you remove the video.

I understand that the video was removed from Facebook, but remains on Instagram and TikTok.

I also understand that the Minister contacted you directly, on advice of the Clerk, to remove the video and that you responded to the Minister that you would not remove the post and subsequently published that letter on your LinkedIn page.

I am of the opinion that your post offends the Broadcast Terms and Conditions and is also arguably a false and misleading account of proceedings before the House.

Publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings is listed as an example of behaviour that the House may treat as a contempt (see *Standing Order 266 (13)*).

I request that you remove the post immediately, and that an apology is required. This apology should occur in preliminary business during either Matters of Privilege or Personal Explanations, no later than Thursday 22 May 2025.

Parliament House
George St Brisbane Queensland 4000 Australia

Phone + 61 7 3553 6700
Fax + 61 7 3553 6709
Email speaker@parliament.qld.gov.au
Web www.parliament.qld.gov.au

If the post is not removed and an apology is not proffered, then I will proceed on the basis of there being no adequate apology in accordance with *SO 269(4)*.

In the meantime, should your office have any queries relating to this matter, they may be directed to my Executive Officer, Coral-Leah Kemp, by email to Speaker@parliament.qld.gov.au or on 07 3553 6700.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat Weir', with a stylized flourish at the end.

HON PAT WEIR MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

[REDACTED]

From: Sport <Sport@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 3 June 2025 11:42 AM
To: Ethics Committee
Subject: FW: Correspondence from the Speaker
Attachments: 250527-OUT-Mander .pdf; Speaker Weir - Disregard for the direction of the Speaker_.pdf

Good morning Mr Stevens,

We have been advised to pass on the attached follow up letter from Minister Mander to the Speaker for the assistance of Ethics Committee regarding a recent referral in relation to a matter involving Ms Jonty Bush MP.

I have attached the Speakers request for this to be directed here and Minister Mander's follow up letter.

Kind regards

Office of the Honourable Tim Mander MP
Minister for Sport and Racing
Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games

[REDACTED] E sport@ministerial.qld.gov.au
1 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000



From: Office Of The Speaker <Office.oftheSpeaker@Parliament.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2025 11:55 AM
To: Sport <Sport@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Correspondence from the Speaker

Good morning

Please find attached above correspondence from the Speaker.

Kind regards



Coral-Leah Kemp

Executive Officer
Office of the Speaker

Parliament House
George Street, Brisbane Qld 4000
[REDACTED]
www.parliament.qld.gov.au



The Honourable Tim Mander MP
Minister for Sport and Racing and
Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games

1 William Street
Brisbane Queensland 4000
PO Box 15478
City East Queensland 4002
Email sport@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Hon. Pat Weir MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Via email: speaker@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Honourable Speaker,

RE: Disregard for the direction of the Speaker – Member for Cooper

I write to raise an ongoing concern regarding the conduct of the Member for Cooper, which I believe continues to constitute a breach of Standing Orders and the rules governing the use of parliamentary broadcast material.

As I write, the social media post that was the subject of my original complaint, is still appearing on TikTok.

I appreciate you have referred the matter to the Ethics Committee. I inform you of this situation for your information.

Thank you for your attention to this unresolved issue.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tim Mander", written over a light blue grid background.

The Honourable Tim Mander MP
Minister for Sport and Racing and
Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games

26 May 2025



Your Ref:

Our Ref: 250527-OUT-Mander

27 May 2025

Hon Tim Mander MP
Minister for Sport and Racing
Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
PO Box 15478
City East QLD 4002

By E-mail: sport@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Minister

I refer to your correspondence received 26 May 2025 regarding a TikTok post shared by the member for Cooper.

I thank you for the update and note that as I referred this matter to the Ethics Committee on 22 May 2025, it is not appropriate for me to further intervene.

I suggest you send any additional correspondence relating to this complaint directly to the Chair of the Ethics Committee, Mr Ray Stevens MP via ethics@parliament.qld.gov.au for the committee's consideration.

Yours sincerely

HON PAT WEIR MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House
George St Brisbane Queensland 4000 Australia

Phone + 61 7 3553 6700
Fax + 61 7 3553 6709
Email speaker@parliament.qld.gov.au
Web www.parliament.qld.gov.au



Ethics Committee

Ethics Committee

Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Ph: 61 7 355 36610

email: ethics@parliament.qld.gov.au
www.parliament.qld.gov.au/ethics

Ref: A1474557

12 June 2025

Ms Jonty Bush MP
Member for Cooper
By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Bush

Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 22 May 2025 relating to an allegation of publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings of the House

On 23 May 2025, the Ethics Committee (the committee) received a referral from Mr Speaker relating to an allegation that you published a false or misleading account of proceedings of the House and breached the Broadcast Footage Terms and Conditions.¹ The Speaker made a ruling with respect to this allegation on 22 May 2025. The referral letter is **attached** for your reference.

The material before the committee states that you published a video that was a shortened excerpt of the broadcast of proceedings on your social media which was intertwined with your own commentary. It is alleged that the shortened nature of the excerpt, combined with the commentary, meant it was potentially misleading in that it did not provide context to the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for Olympic and Paralympic Games, Hon Tim Mander MP's speech in the House.

For your information, the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* (POQA) and the *Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly* (the Standing Orders) set out the relevant rules relating to contempt.

Section 37 of the POQA defines the meaning of "contempt" of the Assembly as follows—

- (1) *"Contempt" of the Assembly means a breach or disobedience of the powers, rights or immunities, or a contempt, of the Assembly or its members or committees.*
- (2) *Conduct, including words, is not contempt of the Assembly unless it amounts, or is intended or likely to amount, to an improper interference with—*
 - (a) the free exercise by the Assembly or a committee of its authority or functions; or*
 - (b) the free performance by a member of the member's duties as a member.*

Standing Order 266(13) provides that an example of a contempt is:

Publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings before the House or a committee.

The Broadcast Footage Terms and Conditions state:

The Legislative Assembly authorises the further publication of this broadcast of the proceedings of the Queensland Parliament, subject to the following conditions:

...

3. Excerpts of proceedings are to be placed in context so as to avoid any misrepresentation.

¹ Broadcast Footage Terms and Conditions: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Live-and-Archived-Broadcasts/Terms-And-Conditions>.

Section 58 of the POQA states:

- (1) The Assembly may at any time impose conditions on the publication of a parliamentary record.*
- (2) It does not matter whether the parliamentary record has been previously published or whether the Assembly authorises or has authorised the publication.*

Example— Assume an audio or visual record of proceedings in the Assembly is published on the internet by an authorised publisher under section 51. The Assembly may impose conditions on the publication by the authorised publisher. The Assembly may also impose conditions on the publication by a person who has accessed the internet publication of a parliamentary record derived from that access.

- (3) Publication of a parliamentary record in contravention of a condition imposed by the Assembly is a contempt of the Assembly.*

The allegations are that you may have committed two different contempts of Parliament. First, under s 37 of the POQA and Standing Order 266(13) and second, under section 58(3) of the POQA.

A contempt under s 37 of the POQA and Standing Order 266(13) has three elements to be established:

Element 1: Has the member published an account of proceedings of the House?

Element 2: Was that account of proceedings false or misleading?

Element 3: Did the publishing of the false and misleading proceedings amount, or was intended or likely to amount, to an improper interference with the free exercise by the Assembly or a committee of its authority or functions; or the free performance by the Minister of his duties as a member?

A contempt under section 58(3) of the POQA has two elements to be established:

Element 1: Was there a publication of a parliamentary record by the member?

Element 2: Was that publication in contravention of a condition imposed by the Assembly?

In accordance with SO 270(1)(b), the committee invites you to provide a submission which specifically addresses the allegation and the elements of the alleged contempts above. You may also wish to include any other information you deem relevant to the committee's deliberations.

This invitation for a submission is a preliminary step to seek further information. The committee has not made any determinations on the possible contempts outlined above.

The committee has established procedures for dealing with privileges references, which ensure procedural fairness and natural justice is afforded to all parties. These procedures are set out in Chapters 44 and 45 of the Standing Orders. The committee also observes the instructions to committees regarding witnesses contained in Schedule 3 to the Standing Orders. The Standing Orders can be read [here](#).

Please note that Standing Order 211B(1) prohibits disclosure of the committee's proceedings, which includes this correspondence:

The proceedings of the Ethics Committee or a subcommittee of that committee on a matter before the Committee that is not open to the public or authorised to be published remains strictly confidential to the committee until the committee has reported to the House or otherwise published the proceedings.

Standing Order 211B does not prevent you from seeking legal advice in relation to the matter. However, your legal representative will also be bound by the same confidentiality requirement. Please do not include your electorate office staff in correspondence with the committee about this matter.

For your information, Standing Order 211B(3)(b) provides that when the Ethics Committee makes its final report to the House on a matter the committee shall at the same time table any submissions received or evidence taken in respect of the matter, unless the committee resolves that some or all of its proceedings remain confidential.

The committee would appreciate if any additional information could be provided by **COB Wednesday 25 June 2025**.

Should you have any queries regarding these matters or require further information, please contact our Committee Secretary, Amanda Honeyman (email: ethics@parliament.qld.gov.au; telephone: 3553 6610).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray Stevens', written in a cursive style.

Mr Ray Stevens MP

Chair

Enc.



Ethics Committee

Ethics Committee

Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Ph: 61 7 355 36610

email: ethics@parliament.qld.gov.au
www.parliament.qld.gov.au/ethics

Ref: A1474558

12 June 2025

Hon Tim Mander MP
Member for Everton
Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for Olympic and Paralympic Games

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Hon Mander

Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 22 May 2025 relating to an allegation of publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings of the House

On 23 May 2025, the Ethics Committee (the committee) received a referral from Mr Speaker relating to an allegation that the member for Cooper, Ms Jonty Bush MP, published a false or misleading account of proceedings of the House and breached the Broadcast Footage Terms and Conditions.¹ The Speaker made a ruling with respect to this allegation on 22 May 2025. The referral letter is **attached** for your reference.

The material before the committee states that the member published a video that was a shortened excerpt of the broadcast of proceedings to their social media which was intertwined with their own commentary. It is alleged that the shortened nature of the excerpt, combined with the commentary, meant it was potentially misleading in that it did not provide context to your speech in the House.

For your information, the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* (POQA) and the *Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly* (the Standing Orders) set out the relevant rules relating to contempt.

Section 37 of the POQA defines the meaning of “contempt” of the Assembly as follows—

- (1) *“Contempt” of the Assembly means a breach or disobedience of the powers, rights or immunities, or a contempt, of the Assembly or its members or committees.*
- (2) *Conduct, including words, is not contempt of the Assembly unless it amounts, or is intended or likely to amount, to an improper interference with—*
 - (a) *the free exercise by the Assembly or a committee of its authority or functions; or*
 - (b) *the free performance by a member of the member’s duties as a member.*

Standing Order 266(13) provides that an example of a contempt is:

Publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings before the House or a committee.

The Broadcast Footage Terms and Conditions state:

The Legislative Assembly authorises the further publication of this broadcast of the proceedings of the Queensland Parliament, subject to the following conditions:

...

3. *Excerpts of proceedings are to be placed in context so as to avoid any misrepresentation.*

¹ Broadcast Footage Terms and Conditions: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Live-and-Archived-Broadcasts/Terms-And-Conditions>.

Section 58 of the POQA states:

- (1) The Assembly may at any time impose conditions on the publication of a parliamentary record.*
- (2) It does not matter whether the parliamentary record has been previously published or whether the Assembly authorises or has authorised the publication.*

Example— Assume an audio or visual record of proceedings in the Assembly is published on the internet by an authorised publisher under section 51. The Assembly may impose conditions on the publication by the authorised publisher. The Assembly may also impose conditions on the publication by a person who has accessed the internet publication of a parliamentary record derived from that access.

- (3) Publication of a parliamentary record in contravention of a condition imposed by the Assembly is a contempt of the Assembly.*

The alleged behaviour could amount to two different contempts of Parliament. First, under s 37 of the POQA and Standing Order 266(13) and second, under section 58(3) of the POQA.

In determining whether the social media post amounts to a contempt in accordance with s 37 of the POQA and Standing Order 266(13), the committee will be considering the following elements:

Element 1: Has the member published an account of proceedings of the House?

Element 2: Was that account of proceedings false or misleading?

Element 3: Did the publishing of the false and misleading proceedings amount, or was intended or likely to amount, to an improper interference with the free exercise by the Assembly or a committee of its authority or functions; or the free performance by the Minister of the his duties as a member?

In determining whether the social media post amounts to a contempt in accordance with section 58(3) of the POQA, the committee will be considering the following elements:

Element 1: Was there a publication of a parliamentary record by the member?

Element 2: Was that publication in contravention of a condition imposed by the Assembly?

At this stage, the committee has not made any determinations in relation to the matter. The committee has a copy of your correspondence to Mr Speaker which was undated. The committee invites you to provide any further information which specifically addresses the elements of the alleged contempts above, or any other information you deem relevant to the committee's deliberations.

The committee has established procedures for dealing with privileges references, which ensure procedural fairness and natural justice is afforded to all parties. These procedures are set out in Chapters 44 and 45 of the Standing Orders. The committee also observes the instructions to committees regarding witnesses contained in Schedule 3 to the Standing Orders. The Standing Orders can be read [here](#).

Please note that Standing Order 211B(1) prohibits disclosure of the committee's proceedings, which includes this correspondence:

The proceedings of the Ethics Committee or a subcommittee of that committee on a matter before the Committee that is not open to the public or authorised to be published remains strictly confidential to the committee until the committee has reported to the House or otherwise published the proceedings.

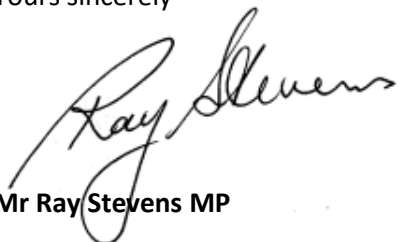
Standing Order 211B does not prevent you from seeking legal advice in relation to the matter. However, your legal representative will also be bound by the same confidentiality requirement.

For your information, Standing Order 211B(3)(b) provides that when the Ethics Committee makes its final report to the House on a matter the committee shall at the same time table any submissions received or evidence taken in respect of the matter, unless the committee resolves that some or all of its proceedings remain confidential.

The committee would appreciate if any additional information could be provided by **COB Wednesday 25 June 2025**.

Should you have any queries regarding these matters or require further information, please contact our Committee Secretary, Amanda Honeyman (email: ethics@parliament.qld.gov.au; telephone: 3553 6610).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray Stevens', written in a cursive style.

Mr Ray Stevens MP

Chair

Enc.

[REDACTED]

From: Jonty Bush
Sent: Wednesday, 18 June 2025 1:15 PM
To: Ethics Committee
Subject: RE: Correspondence from the Ethics Committee

Afternoon team, confirming I have just read this now, I will be able to respond by June 25th thank you
Jonty

From: Ethics Committee <ETHICS@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 12 June 2025 9:25 AM
To: Jonty Bush [REDACTED]
Cc: Ethics Committee <ETHICS@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Correspondence from the Ethics Committee

Dear Ms Bush

Please find attached correspondence from the Ethics Committee.

The committee has requested that you confirm receipt of this email. Should confirmation not be received, the committee secretariat will contact your electorate office in order to draw your attention to this correspondence.

If you have any questions or queries, do not hesitate to contact the secretariat.

Kind regards
Tamara

Tamara Vitale
Executive Secretary
to the Director Assembly and Committee Services
Ethics Committee
Committee of the Legislative Assembly
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (Qld)
Assembly and Committee Services



QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE

Parliament House
Cnr George and Alice Streets Brisbane Qld 4000
07 355 36610

[REDACTED]
Ethics@parliament.qld.gov.au
CLA@parliament.qld.gov.au
CPA.Queensland@parliament.qld.gov.au
www.parliament.qld.gov.au

Work Arrangements

Tues, Wed & Thurs



Mon & Fri (non-sitting weeks)



[REDACTED]

From: Ethics Committee
Sent: Tuesday, 1 July 2025 9:26 AM
To: Jonty Bush
Cc: Ethics Committee
Subject: RE: Correspondence from the Ethics Committee

Dear Ms Bush

I am reaching out to confirm that the secretariat has not yet received a response from you, as requested in the Ethics Committee correspondence of 12 June.

Can you please confirm if you will be providing additional information and when that should be expected?

Thank you.

Kind regards
Tamara

From: Jonty Bush <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 18 June 2025 1:15 PM
To: Ethics Committee <ETHICS@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Correspondence from the Ethics Committee

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Cc: Ethics Committee <ETHICS@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Correspondence from the Ethics Committee

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If you have any questions or queries, do not hesitate to contact the secretariat.

Kind regards
Tamara

Tamara Vitale

[REDACTED]

From: Jonty Bush
Sent: Tuesday, 1 July 2025 9:28 PM
To: Ethics Committee
Subject: RE: Correspondence from the Ethics Committee

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Thanks Tamara, apologies this escaped me during budget week, and I am about to take some leave with my family. Could I ask for an extension until the week of the 21st July?

Jonty

From: Ethics Committee <ETHICS@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 July 2025 9:26 AM
To: Jonty Bush [REDACTED]
Cc: Ethics Committee <ETHICS@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Correspondence from the Ethics Committee

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To: Ethics Committee <ETHICS@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Correspondence from the Ethics Committee

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Jonty

From: Ethics Committee <ETHICS@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 12 June 2025 9:25 AM
To: Jonty Bush <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Ethics Committee <ETHICS@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Correspondence from the Ethics Committee

[REDACTED]

From: Ethics Committee
Sent: Tuesday, 1 July 2025 9:28 AM
To: Hon. Tim Mander
Cc: Ethics Committee
Subject: RE: Correspondence from the Ethics Committee
Attachments: 250612 - Out to Minister Mander (A1474558).pdf

Dear Minister

I am reaching out to confirm that the secretariat has not yet received a response from you, as requested in the Ethics Committee correspondence of 12 June.

Can you please confirm if you will be providing any additional information, and if yes, when that is expected to be sent?

Thank you.

Kind regards
Tamara

From: Ethics Committee <ETHICS@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 12 June 2025 9:25 AM
To: Hon. Tim Mander [REDACTED]
Cc: Ethics Committee <ETHICS@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Correspondence from the Ethics Committee

Dear Minister

Please find attached correspondence from the Ethics Committee.

The committee has requested that you confirm receipt of this email. Should confirmation not be received, the committee secretariat will contact your electorate office in order to draw your attention to this correspondence.

If you have any questions or queries, do not hesitate to contact the secretariat.

Kind regards
Tamara

Tamara Vitale
Executive Secretary
to the Director Assembly and Committee Services
Ethics Committee
Committee of the Legislative Assembly
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (Qld)
Assembly and Committee Services

[REDACTED]

From: Ethics Committee
Sent: Wednesday, 2 July 2025 2:24 PM
To: Jonty Bush; Ethics Committee
Subject: RE: Correspondence from the Ethics Committee

Good afternoon Jonty

Your request for an extension has been granted.

Regards, Amanda

Amanda Honeyman LLB(Hons) PGDipLaw Bar (UK) MBA FGIA GAICD
Committee Secretary
Ethics Committee
Committees



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From: Jonty Bush [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 1 July 2025 9:28 PM
To: Ethics Committee <ETHICS@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Correspondence from the Ethics Committee

Thanks Tamara, apologies this escaped me during budget week, and I am about to take some leave with my family. Could I ask for an extension until the week of the 21st July?

Jonty

[REDACTED]

From: Tim Mander <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, 3 July 2025 7:58 AM
To: Ethics Committee
Subject: Fwd: Correspondence from the Speaker
Attachments: image002.png; image001.png; 250527-OUT-Mander .pdf; Speaker Weir - Disregard for the direction of the Speaker_.pdf

Dear Tamara ,

I refer to your recent correspondence regarding the ethics hearing in relation to the member for Cooperation.

I believe the letter I sent to the Speaker summarises my concerns accurately.

Please find below, a subsequent letter I forwarded to the Speaker on 26 May, highlighting their Member for Coopers refusal to follow the Speakers direction.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond

Kind Regards

Tim Mander
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Daniel Dawes <[REDACTED]>
Date: 1 July 2025 at 9:34:40 am AEST
To: Tim Mander <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: Correspondence from the Speaker

From: Sport
Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 11:42 AM
To: 'ethics@parliament.qld.gov.au' <ethics@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Correspondence from the Speaker

Good morning Mr Stevens,

We have been advised to pass on the attached follow up letter from Minister Mander to the Speaker for the assistance of Ethics Committee regarding a recent referral in relation to a matter involving Ms Jonty Bush MP.

[REDACTED]

From: Ethics Committee
Sent: Tuesday, 22 July 2025 3:04 PM
To: Jonty Bush
Cc: Ethics Committee
Subject: RE: Correspondence from the Ethics Committee
Attachments: 250612 - Out to Cooper (A1474557).pdf

Good afternoon Jonty

Just wanted to send a reminder that your submission to the Ethics Committee regarding the contempt allegation is due by the end of the week.

I've attached the committee's letter of 12 June 2025 for your information on the matters the committee will consider.

Regards, Amanda

Amanda Honeyman LLB(Hons) PGDipLaw Bar (UK) MBA FGIA GAICD
Committee Secretary
Ethics Committee
Committees



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From: Ethics Committee <ETHICS@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 July 2025 2:24 PM
To: Jonty Bush [REDACTED] Ethics Committee <ETHICS@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Correspondence from the Ethics Committee

[REDACTED]

From: Jonty Bush
Sent: Tuesday, 29 July 2025 3:59 PM
To: Ethics Committee
Subject: RE: Correspondence from the Ethics Committee

Amanda I apologise time got away on me and I've missed this deadline. I am now seeking legal advice on the referral, and would appreciate another final two week extension if the committee could do that?

Thank you for your consideration
Jonty

From: Ethics Committee <ETHICS@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 July 2025 3:04 PM
To: Jonty Bush [REDACTED]
Cc: Ethics Committee <ETHICS@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Correspondence from the Ethics Committee

Good afternoon Jonty

Just wanted to send a reminder that your submission to the Ethics Committee regarding the contempt allegation is due by the end of the week.

I've attached the committee's letter of 12 June 2025 for your information on the matters the committee will consider.

Regards, Amanda

Amanda Honeyman LLB(Hons) PGDipLaw Bar (UK) MBA FGIA GAICD
Committee Secretary
Ethics Committee
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From: Ethics Committee
Sent: Thursday, 31 July 2025 12:20 PM
To: Jonty Bush
Cc: Ethics Committee; Amanda Honeyman
Subject: RE: Correspondence from the Ethics Committee

Good afternoon Ms Bush

The Chair and Deputy Chair, on behalf of the committee, have agreed to the requested two-week extension until 14 August (noting 13 August is the Ekka public holiday in Brisbane).

Kind regards

Rebecca Meehan BHlthSc(Pod), LLB(Hons), GradDipLegPrac
Legal and Compliance Officer



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From: Jonty Bush
Sent: Tuesday, 29 July 2025 3:59 PM
To: Ethics Committee <ETHICS@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Correspondence from the Ethics Committee

Amanda I apologise time got away on me and I've missed this deadline. I am now seeking legal advice on the referral, and would appreciate another final two week extension if the committee could do that?

Thank you for your consideration
Jonty

From: Ethics Committee <ETHICS@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 July 2025 3:04 PM
To: Jonty Bush



The Honourable Tim Mander MP
Minister for Sport and Racing and
Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games

1 William Street
Brisbane Queensland 4000
PO Box 15478
City East Q
Telephon [REDACTED]
Email sport@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Mr Ray Stevens MP
Member for Mermaid Beach
Chair – Ethics Committee
Via: ethics@parliament.qld.gov.au

Correspondence received 06.08.25

Dear Mr Stevens MP,

I wish to bring to your attention the continued actions of Ms Jonty Bush MP during the Estimates Hearings last week.

I have attached a photograph that the Member for Cooper, seemingly taken inside the parliament, posted on social media last week after the hearing into Sports.

The wording on the shirt is a direct correlation to the issue that is currently before the Ethics Committee.

I forward this as part of your deliberations as it seems to hold the parliamentary processes in contempt.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Mander".

The Honourable Tim Mander MP
Minister for Sport and Racing and
Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games



Jonty Bush - Member for
Cooper 



5d • 

It's been a long day in estimates today digging into government expenditure across Housing, Public Works, Youth, Transport, Olympics and our favourite Minister... the Minister for Sports.

The Minister in his short time has been very busy... removing the obligations for boards to appoint women and meeting with a whole six women when developing the sports strategy.

Despite representing the fastest growing sports participants in our state, today we revealed that the Minister has not released any specialist funding programs for female athletes.

I eagerly await the release of the Sports Strategy in November this year.



From: Jonty Bush
Sent: Friday, 15 August 2025 7:34 PM
To: Ethics Committee
Cc: Peter Adams-Clark
Subject: Extension request until Tuesday 19 August

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Good evening

I appreciate the timeline for my response has passed, I have been engaged in providing instructions to my lawyers, who have respectfully requested an extension until 5pm Tuesday 19th August.

I would be grateful for the additional two days.

Happy to discuss
Jonty Bush



Jonty Bush

she / her

Member for Cooper

Office of Jonty Bush - Member for Cooper

cooper@parliament.qld.gov.au | P 07 3554 9100

Shop 2, 230 Waterworks Road, Ashgrove QLD 4060

PO Box 3010 Ashgrove QLD

Connect with me on social media below:

[Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) [Twitter](#)

The Cooper electorate is located on Juggera and Turrubul land.



From: Ethics Committee
Sent: Monday, 18 August 2025 12:16 PM
To: Jonty Bush
Cc: Ethics Committee
Subject: RE: Extension request until Tuesday 19 August

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Good afternoon Jonty

The Chair and Deputy Chair have agreed to the further extension until 5pm tomorrow, 19 August 2025.

I am also to advise you that the submission must be received by 5pm tomorrow and there will be no further extensions granted.

Best wishes, Amanda

Amanda Honeyman LLB(Hons) PGDipLaw Bar (UK) MBA FGIA GAICD

Committee Secretary
Ethics Committee

Committees



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Your ref: A1474557
Our ref: MSM:PJC:251377

19 August 2025

Mr Ray Stevens MP
Chair, Ethics Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane, Qld, 4000

EMAIL ethics@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Stevens

MATTER OF PRIVILEGE REFERRED BY THE SPEAKER ON 22 MAY 2025 RELATING TO AN ALLEGATION OF PUBLISHING A FALSE OR MISLEADING ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE

1. We act for Ms Jonty Bush MP, the Member for Cooper (**the Member**).
2. We refer to your letter dated 12 June 2025 addressed to the Member in respect of the above matter.
3. We have been engaged by the Member to provide submissions on her behalf.¹ Those submissions follow below.

Relevant facts

4. On 1 May 2025, the Honourable Tim Mander MP, Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for Olympic and Paralympic Games (**the Minister**), was engaged in a parliamentary debate in the Legislative Assembly in relation to the *Queensland Academy of Sports Bill 2025* (Qld).
5. As part of the debate, the Minister responded to amendments that the Opposition had put forward. Those amendments included obligations for the Queensland Academy of Sport to report publicly on the funding and focus provided to women's and girls' sport.

The Minister's Debate Comment

6. During that debate, the Minister made the following statements, extracted for context from page 1168 of the relevant Hansard.

¹ In accordance with *Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly* (Qld), SO 270(1)(b).

Those opposite come in here and question the appointments that we may or may not make to the board and question their appropriate skills. I can guarantee in relation to the board that there will be no union Labor hacks. That will make it very unusual. There will be no union Labor hacks whose only skill and experience is lifelong membership of the Labor Party. Unless protesting has become a sport, they have no expertise. Our government will appoint real people with real experience in the real world. Those appointed will have relevant experience. Their only qualification will be—

Ms Grace: Membership of the LNP!

Mr MANDER: Unlike those opposite we do not owe appointments to our union mates or factional buddies who call the shots behind the scenes.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for McConnel, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr MANDER: The academy does incredible work advocating for and supporting women in sport. What those opposite are saying is an insult to the academy. They have achieved incredible results. One only has to look at the results of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris. Of Queensland Olympic medallists, 23 were female and 17 were male. While 36 per cent of our Paralympic medallists were female, I want to take the opportunity to highlight one of our superstars, Alexa Leary, who has to be the cheeriest, most beautiful woman playing sport at the moment. She is just a delight to be around. She won gold in the women's 100-metre freestyle.

Ms Bush interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Cooper, you are not interjecting from your correct seat. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr MANDER: She got a record the other day in the mixed 4 x 100-metre medley, plus silver in the mixed 4 x 100-metre freestyle. The academy has introduced several initiatives aimed at fostering the greater involvement of women in coaching. I said earlier that over half the athletes at the academy are women—I think it is 54 per cent—and over half the coaches—52 per cent—are women. I also mentioned earlier that the Gen2032 coaching scholarship program has seen 12 exceptional women coaches—accounting for 52 per cent of participants—engaged in a two-year full-time program. Sports these women coach include hockey, sprint kayak, Rugby League, swimming, footy, water polo, beach volleyball, sailing, rugby sevens, BMX freestyle and aerial skiing. Ten of the 12 women were offered a third year of coaching scholarship support through specific Australian Institute of Sport funding. The program is designed to create lifelong learners who use innovative coaching practices and become skilled communicators.

When this academy thrives so too does the future of Queensland sport. This academy is a world leader. Recently a delegation came out from India. They are trying to secure the 2036 Games. I wish them all the best with that. They came to the Queensland Academy of Sport because they were told, when they asked around the world, 'Where do we go to learn about coaching of elite sport?', to go to the QAS. Anybody who has been out there can only be impressed. The strategy that they have on their wall is the most impressive thing you have ever seen. It is brilliant. Do yourself a favour and go out and there and you will be blown away by how professional and state-of-the-art they are. Under the Crisafulli government Queensland will be the undeniable home of Australian sport.

Let us not forget that the Labor Party care so little about the QAS that they were more than happy to dump it because they wanted QSAC to be where the new stadium was built. That is where the academy is. There was no talk about what might have happened to the academy that is well established there. It has a couple of ovals, a throwing pit—which is just brilliant—and all the latest mod cons one could think of in sports science. Those opposite were going to displace them in the lead-up to an Olympic Games. Can anyone think of any worse disruption?

7. As the Ethics Committee (**Committee**) is aware, the relevant statement made by the Minister is (**Minister's Debate Comment**):

"The academy does incredible work advocating for and supporting women in sport. What those opposite are saying is an insult to the academy. They have achieved incredible results. One only has to look at the results of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris. Of Queensland Olympic medallists, 23 were

female and 17 were male. While 36 per cent of our Paralympic medallists were female, I want to take the opportunity to highlight one of our superstars, Alexa Leary, who has to be the cheeriest, most beautiful woman playing sport at the moment. She is just a delight to be around. She won gold in the women's 100-metre freestyle.”²

The Video

8. On approximately 8 May 2025, the Member posted a video on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok that included statements from the Member, and an excerpt from the Minister's Debate Comment (**the Video**).

9. Extracted below is a transcript of the relevant portion of the Video:

Member's statement: *“Queensland's Sports Minister referred to paralympian and all-round superstar, Alexa Leary, as:”*

Excerpt from the Minister's Debate Comment: *“most beautiful woman that's playing sport at the moment.”*
(the **Extracted Statement**)

Member's statement: *“An athlete's appearance shouldn't be the subject of parliamentary debate. Ironically, this comment was made in response to amendments that the Opposition introduced that would require Queensland's Academy of Sports to report publicly on the quotient of funding it allocates to female sports and participation.”*

10. The Video is the basis on which it is alleged that the Member has committed two distinct contempts of Parliament.
11. On or about 13 May 2025, the Member removed the Video from Facebook. At that time, the Member elected not to remove the Video from Instagram or TikTok.
12. On 13 May 2025, the Minister wrote to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and:
 - (a) alleged that the Member's post intentionally presented the Minister's remarks in a misleading and selective manner;
 - (b) stated that, *“These clips edit my comments to imply that I was making a personal observation about Alexa Leary's physical appearance. In fact, the full context of my statement clearly shows I was referring to her in terms of character and contribution. The editing of the footage in this way creates a false and unfair representation of my intent”*; and
 - (c) requested that the Speaker investigate the matter.

² Hansard, 1 May 2025, page 1168.

13. On 22 May 2025, the Member took the Video down from Instagram, and on 19 August 2025 the Member took down the video from TikTok.
14. On 23 May 2025, the Speaker referred this matter to the Committee for consideration and report in accordance with Standing Order 269.

Contempt allegations

15. On 12 June 2025, Mr Stevens MP, Chair of the Committee, wrote to the Member with respect to the Video and allegations of contempt arising out of its contents. The specific allegation levelled against the Member is that:

“the shortened nature of the excerpt, combined with the commentary, meant it was potentially misleading in that it did not provide context to the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for Olympic and Paralympic Games, Hon Tim Mander MP’s speech in the House.”

16. It is alleged that the Member has committed two separate contempts of Parliament by reason of breaches of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* (Qld) (**Act**). Those alleged breaches are further particularised as breaches of:
 - (a) section 37 of the Act, together with standing order 266(13) of the *Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly* (Qld) (**Standing Orders**) (**Allegation 1**); and
 - (b) section 58(3) of the Act, together with Condition 3 of the *Broadcast Footage Terms and Conditions* (**Allegation 2**).³
17. The relevant sections of the Act, Standing Orders, and Broadcast Footage Terms and Conditions are extracted in Mr Stevens’ letter and not reproduced here for brevity.
18. For the reasons that follow, the Member has committed no contempt of Parliament.

Allegation 1

19. It is alleged that the Member breached section 37 of the Act. The allegation should be rejected.
20. Section 37 defines a contempt of the Assembly. Standing Order 266 provides examples of contempt, which relevantly include, “*publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings before the House or a committee*”.⁴

³ Conditions for Filming and Broadcasting the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly, page 4 “Conditions”, tabled in the Legislative Assembly 26 October 2017

⁴ Standing Orders, order 266(13).

Element 1: Has the Member published an account of proceedings of the House?

21. The Member does not contest that, by publishing the Video, and in particular the Extracted Statement, she published an account of proceedings before the House.

Element 2: Was that account of proceedings false or misleading?

22. The Member respectfully submits that her account of proceedings was neither false nor misleading.
23. The Member has not published a false account of proceedings. This is so because:
- (a) the Extracted Statement is a short excerpt of precisely what the Minister said;
 - (b) the Minister's words were not altered;
 - (c) the Minister's spoken inflection, and anything relating to how his words might be interpreted or understood, was not changed;
 - (d) the Minister's words had not been manipulated or selectively edited—as the Minister has alleged;⁵ and
 - (e) the Extracted Statement is an unedited and exact version of the record of proceedings.
24. In line with the Committee's previous interpretation of Standing Order 266, "*Mislead*" is to be interpreted in accord with the Macquarie Dictionary as "*to lead or guide wrongly; lead astray*". For the reasons that follow, the Member has also not published a misleading account of proceedings.
- (a) By the paragraph in which the Extracted Statement appears, the Minister refers to the work the Queensland Academy of Sport (**QAS**) does for women in sport and, more specifically, statistics of male and female Queensland Olympic medallists. The Minister then refers to Ms Leary as an example of one of the female Queensland medallists. Yet, the Extracted Statement refers to Ms Leary as a "*beautiful woman*". The context, being the paragraph in which the Extracted Statement appears, therefore provides no clarification as to why Ms Leary's beauty—whether physical or otherwise—is relevant to the statistics in the paragraph or to Ms Leary's swimming achievements. Beauty is not relevant to a swimmer's ability or achievements. Beauty would appear to have no connection or relevance in the context in which it appears. So, providing the context would clarify nothing.
 - (b) The Minister's comment after the Extracted Statement also does not clarify the use of the phrase "*beautiful woman*". The Minister says, "*she is a delight to be around*". This statement is disjunctive with the preceding sentence. A reasonable reading of the Minister's statements are that he considers Ms

⁵ Letter from the Honourable Tim Mander MP to the Honourable Pat Weir MP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, dated 13 May 2025, [3].

Leary is, separately, “the cheeriest”, and “most beautiful woman”, and “just a delight to be around”. This is a list of Ms Leary’s perceived personal qualities that do not qualify each other. This further context provides no clarity as to whether the Minister’s reference to “beauty” is a reference to physical appearance, character, or achievements.

- (c) The Cambridge Dictionary defines “*beauty*” variously as “*the quality of being pleasing and attractive, especially to look at*”.⁶ This definition, which refers to physical appearance, accords with the Member’s statement that, “*an athlete’s appearance shouldn’t be the subject of parliamentary debate*”. The Member’s statement cannot be said to be likely to lead the public astray.
- (d) Removal of the Minister’s words surrounding the Extracted Statement do not change or qualify the meaning of the Extracted Statement. The context does not make clear whether the Minister is referring to Ms Leary’s physical appearance or her character. While the Minister submits that he referred to Ms Leary as beautiful “*in the broader sense of character and contribution*”,⁷ this meaning is not apparent on the face of the Extracted Statement or the context surrounding it. If the surrounding context were included, a reasonable member of the public would not be misled by the Video as to the Minister’s meaning.
- (e) The Member accurately states, by way of introduction to the Extracted Statement that, “*Queensland’s Sports Minister referred to paralympian and all-round superstar, Alexa Leary, as*”. This is a factual summary stated prior to the Extracted Statement. When considered objectively, the Member’s introduction does not anchor the viewer’s mind to a particular interpretation of the Extracted Statement prior to it appearing in the Video. The introduction could not lead a viewer into an erroneous understanding or interpretation of the Minister’s statement.
- (f) In the Video, the Member presents a forthright statement of her personal *opinion*. After the Extracted Statement appears in the Video, the Member states that, “*An athlete’s appearance shouldn’t be the subject of parliamentary debate*”. This statement makes clear that the Member interprets the Minister’s comments to be with respect to Ms Leary’s appearance. On any reasonable viewing of the Video, it is clear the Video presents the Member’s opinion only.
- (g) One of the possible, reasonable, and commonsensical interpretations of the Extracted Statement is that the Minister is referring to Ms Leary’s appearance. This is so regardless of whether the Extracted Statement is considered *with or without* the surrounding words. The context does not clarify the Minister’s meaning of the word “*beautiful*”. The Member’s comments, based on the interpretation that the Minister is in fact referring to Ms Leary’s physical appearance, is therefore warranted as they arise logically from the Minister’s statement.

⁶ Cambridge Dictionary Online (meaning of “beauty”).

⁷ Letter from the Honourable Tim Mander MP to the Honourable Pat Weir MP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, dated 13 May 2025, [2].

- (h) The Member is permitted to publicly voice her opinions with respect to statements made by members of Parliament made during public debate. To restrict the Member's right to do so would be without proper basis and an unjustified restriction of her implied freedom of political communication. By the Video, she has done that. It is not misleading for her to do so.
- (i) The Member is not required to provide in public statements commentary that present on equal footing all possible interpretations of a Minister's statements espoused during parliamentary debate. The Member's inference that the Minister was referring to Ms Leary's appearance was open to the Member and readily interpreted with or without the surrounding context.
- (j) The Minister does not clarify his use of the word "*beautiful*". For instance, he does not say, "*By beautiful, I mean that Ms Leary is a person with a beautiful personality and perspective on life*"; nor does he say in the surrounding context that his reference to Ms Leary's beauty was meant to indicate that she "*has a beautiful character*" or that her "*achievements are beautiful*"; nor did he say words to the effect that Ms Leary's contribution to sport was beautiful. He provides no clarification as to why the word "*beautiful*" was used.
- (k) The Extracted Statement of the Minister's speech was not made in response to a question during the Parliamentary debate, such that without the question the response would not make logical sense.
- (l) The Extracted Statement was not proximal to heated and interrupting interjections from other members of parliament such that the Minister's comments would only make sense in that broader context. The Minister stated the Extracted Statement during relatively orderly political debate.

Element 3: Did the publishing of the false and misleading proceedings amount, or was intended or likely to amount, to an improper interference with the free exercise by the Assembly of its authority or functions; or the free performance by a member of the member's duties as a member?

- 25. The Member submits that she has not published an account of proceedings that was false or misleading. However, for completeness, she addresses this third element in any event.
- 26. In the Member's submission, by publishing the Video, the Member has not improperly interfered with the Assembly or its authority or functions. Nor has the Member interfered with the free performance of a member's duties as a member.

Improper interference with the free exercise by the Assembly of its authority or functions

- 27. Broadly speaking, the functions of the Assembly include law making for "*the peace welfare and good government of*" Queensland,⁸ approving Government expenditure,

⁸ Constitution Act 1867 (Qld) s 2.

providing oversight with respect to Government conduct, and facilitating a debate forum.

28. The Video has not interfered with the Assembly's law-making power. The Video has nothing to do with approval of Government expenditure.
29. The Video does relate to Government oversight. The Member's comments in the Video provide, on behalf of the community, oversight with respect to a Minister's conduct. The Video *enhances* rather than detracts from the Assembly's scrutinising function.
30. The Video is also relevant to the provision by the Assembly of a debate forum. If members do not feel that they can engage in free and open debate in the Assembly, then the Assembly's function would be restricted. However, this free and open debate cannot extend beyond reasonable boundaries; it cannot extend to members of Parliament being permitted to make offensive or disparaging statements about portions of the Queensland community. The Member submits that by posting the Video, she was working to ensure that debate in the Assembly maintained a standard of decorum appropriate to the Parliamentary forum.

Improper interference with the free performance by a member of the member's duties

31. That the Video has not interfered with the Minister's free performance of his duties is apparent from the statements made by the Minister on 11 June 2025 during parliamentary debate, more than a month after the Member posted the Video. The relevant portion of the Hansard is extracted below:⁹

Mr SULLIVAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It has been brought to my attention that during my contribution and the interjections from the member for Everton, in speaking about the women who were appointed as PBMs, professional board members, the member yelled out, 'And they were cheery and beautiful, too.' I find that utterly offensive—not just personally; I find it unparliamentary. Considering that one of those women is my wife, I ask that he withdraw.

Mr MANDER: That is totally out of context, but for the sake of the House, I withdraw.

32. We are instructed that if the Minister took issue with the summary of what he said that was provided by Mr Sullivan, then the Minister would have done so at the time.
33. The Minister's statement, as summarised by Mr Sullivan, "*and they were cheery and beautiful, too*" indicates that the Video has not interfered with the Minister's conduct or the free performance of his duties.
34. More broadly, the examples of contempt set out in section 37 assist in identifying the kind of conduct which will amount to a contempt. In relation to conduct directed at members, the examples include assaulting, obstructing or insulting, or threatening or bribing a member. Such overt, serious conduct would plainly amount or be intended to amount to the improper interference with the free performance of a member's duties. By contrast, the Member's public criticism in the Video does not rise (even close) to the severity of these aforementioned examples.

⁹ Hansard, 11 June 2025, page 1656.

Conclusion regarding Allegation 1

35. The Member submits that the Committee should reject the allegation that the Member has committed a contempt of the Assembly under section 37 of the Act. She has not published a false or misleading account of proceedings, and further, her conduct in posting the Video was not intended or is not likely to amount to an improper interference with the free exercise by the Assembly or the free performance by a member of the member's duties as a member.

Allegation 2

36. It is alleged that the Member breached section 58(3) of the Act. In the Member's respectful submission, the allegation should be rejected.

Element 1: Has the Member published a parliamentary record?

37. As previously indicated, the Member does not contest that she has published a parliamentary record.

Element 2: Did the published extracts require additional context to avoid misrepresentation?

38. As the Committee is aware, the current Broadcast Footage Terms and Conditions were agreed to by the Assembly on 12 November 2015, and those terms and conditions are "*a condition imposed by the Assembly*".¹⁰

39. Further, on 26 October 2017, "*Rules for Media Access to Parliamentary Precinct and the Legislative Assembly Chamber*" were tabled in the Legislative Assembly. These included "*Conditions for Filming and Broadcasting the Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly*", which relevantly included:

"Access to the proceedings of the Queensland Parliament for the broadcasting and televising of proceedings is subject to an undertaking to observe, and to comply with, the following conditions—

...

3. Context

Excerpts of proceedings are to be placed in context."

40. As the Committee has previously identified, the key consideration in this context is "*whether the published extracts required additional context to avoid misrepresentation*".¹¹ The Committee has also adopted the dictionary meaning of "*misrepresent*" to mean "*to represent incorrectly, improperly, or falsely*".¹²

¹⁰ Record of Proceedings, 12 November 2015, pp 2830-2831; referred to in Report No. 232, 57th Parliament, Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 7 June 2024 relating to an allegation of publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings of the House, [62]–[63].

¹¹ Report No. 232, 57th Parliament, Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 7 June 2024 relating to an allegation of publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings of the House, [64].

¹² Report No. 232, 57th Parliament, Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 7 June 2024 relating to an allegation of publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings of the House, [66].

41. Whether additional context was required to avoid misrepresentation with respect to the Minister's comments can be answered with reference to the obverse consideration: whether a misrepresentation has in fact occurred. The Minister has alleged that the Member has placed the Minister's comments contained in the Extracted Statement "*out of context to misrepresent my comments*".¹³ With respect, the Minister's allegation must be rejected.
42. The Member has not misrepresented the Minister, and the inclusion of additional context was not required to avoid misrepresentation. The Member's submissions with respect to the alleged breach of section 37 of the Act are apposite here. They are articulated further below.
- (a) The context to the Extracted Statement provides no clarification as to why Ms Leary's *beauty* is relevant to the Minister's speech about the Australian Sports Academy. The context surrounding the Extracted Statement refers to statistics of male and female Queensland Olympic medallists while the Extracted Statement refers to Ms Leary as "beautiful". There is no apparent link between those statistics and a personal, subjective statement specific to Ms Leary. Inclusion of the context therefore provides no further contextual meaning for the word "*beautiful*". Removal of the Minister's words surrounding the Extracted Statement do not change the meaning of the Extracted Statement. The context does not make clear whether the Minister is referring to Ms Leary's physical appearance, character, or contribution to sport.
 - (b) The Minister's statements "*most beautiful woman that's playing sport at the moment*" and "*she is just a delight to be around*" are disjunctive rather than conjunctive. The second statement does not qualify or clarify the first. The two statements sound as a list of Ms Leary's (unrelated) attributes. A sensible reading is that the Minister consider Ms Leary to be both, but separately, a beautiful woman and a pleasure to be around.
 - (c) The Minister's use of the phrase "*beautiful woman*" brings a woman's gender to the fore of the Extracted Statement. In concord with the Minister's use of those words, the Member's key message in the Video relates to and highlights disparities between the sexes in sport. The Member's and Minister's messages are aligned in this regard.
 - (d) The Minister says, "*beautiful woman*", rather than "*beautiful person*" or "*beautiful man*". The connotations of the latter alternate phrases are notably different to the connotations of the Minister's phrase. Unfortunately, we live in a society where beauty as it relates to women is usually associated with physical appearance. Viewed in this broader context, it is more likely than not that the Minister is referring to Ms Leary's physical attributes.

¹³ Letter from the Honourable Tim Mander MP to the Honourable pat Weir MP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, dated 13 May 2025, [4].

- (e) In the Video, the Member introduces the Extracted Statement by saying that “*Queensland’s Sports Minister referred to paralympian and all-round superstar, Alexa Leary, as*”. This is factual. Reference to the statistics mentioned by the Minister in the surrounding context would not have changed the meaning of the Extracted Statement.
 - (f) A reasonable member of the public observing the relevant sitting of parliament could have inferred from the Extracted Statement heard in its context that the Minister was referring to Ms Leary’s appearance. This interpretation was open to an objective observer, such as a member of the public watching the Video, *with and without* the surrounding context.
 - (g) The Minister himself does not clarify his use of the word “*beautiful*”. Instead, within minutes of using that word, the Minister queries the score of the State of Origin. That broader context provides no clarification of the Minister’s words.
 - (h) The surrounding conduct of the parliamentary debate provides no relevant context to the Extracted Statement, specifically:
 - (i) the Minister’s comment was not in response to a question that contextualised or clarified the meaning of his comment;
 - (ii) the Extracted Statement of the Minister’s speech was not proximal to heated and interrupting interjections from other members of parliament such that the Minister’s comments would only make sense in that broader context.
43. More broadly, the Video draws attention to the Minister’s choice of language (intentional or otherwise) in describing a female Paralympian. The post emphasises that the comments were made in the context of a parliamentary debate including the need for transparency around funding and support for female athletes. The Video is a criticism of the Minister’s poor choice of language, but it does not violate a condition under 58(3).

Conclusion regarding Allegation 2

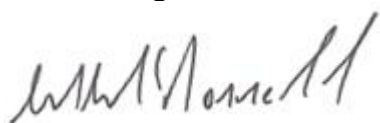
44. The Member respectfully submits that she has committed no contempt pursuant to section 58(3) of the Act. Further context was not required to avoid misrepresentation because the Minister’s statement contained within the Extracted Statement stand alone and cannot be further or better understood within the surrounding context. She has not misrepresented the Minister. She has merely presented one of the possible and reasonable interpretations of the Minister’s words.

Conclusion

45. In the Member’s respectful submission, the elements of the alleged contempts raised against the Member have not been satisfied. The allegations have not been established.

46. Despite this conclusion, the Member notes the Committee's comments made regarding social media use in Report 232. The Committee can be assured that, prior to posting the Video, the Member did consider any potential harm or liability for the comments that she made. The Member concluded prior to posting the Video that the message contained in the Video was important for women generally, important for girls, important for women in sport, and important for the broader Queensland community.
47. We are further instructed that in the Member's view, women in sport have long faced structural disadvantage: from inequitable funding to enduring stereotypes that reduce women and girls to their physical appearance or demeanour rather than their abilities and achievements. International bodies, including the IOC and UNESCO, have recognised such language as harmful and offensive to women. In this context, the words of the Minister carry particular weight. It is a matter of public interest that the community be made aware when a Minister charged with the important task of advancing equality in sport instead reinforces outdated stereotypes.
48. The Member believes that, on balance, publishing the Minister's remarks was important to ensure transparency and accountability, and to highlight the urgent need for leaders in this field to champion respect and equity for women athletes.
49. The Member respectfully submits that the House need take no further action in relation to this matter.

Yours faithfully
Results Legal



Michael McDonnell
Principal

Contact: Peter Adams-Clark
Email: [REDACTED]

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Ethics Committee

Ethics Committee

Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Ph: 61 7 355 36610

email: ethics@parliament.qld.gov.au
www.parliament.qld.gov.au/ethics

Ref: A1534635

28 August 2025

Ms Jonty Bush MP
Member for Cooper
By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Bush

Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 22 May 2025 relating to an allegation of publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings of the House

I refer to our correspondence to you dated 12 June 2025 and your submission on the above matter received by the Ethics Committee on 19 August 2025.

The committee considered this matter at its meeting on Wednesday 27 August 2025 and resolved to seek your advice on the matters outlined below.

1. Use of the term 'beautiful'

We note that in your submission you interpret the term 'beautiful' to describe physical attributes. However, the committee welcomes your view on whether you have ever heard or used the term 'beautiful' in other contexts such as personality, demeanour, traits or behaviour?

2. Your reasons for removing the posts when you did.

We note from the referral and your submission that you removed the post from Facebook around 13 May 2025 but elected to not remove it from Instagram until 22 May 2025, and from Tik Tok until 19 August 2025.

We seek your response on the reasons for not taking down the social media posts following requests from the Clerk and subsequently the Speaker until the dates listed in your submission.

3. The reasons for not meeting three timeframes for providing a submission to the committee.

The committee notes the three extensions granted to provide a written submission. The committee seeks an explanation as to your reluctance to provide a submission in a timely manner, i.e. why did you fail to meet the initial three timeframes of 26 June, 25 July and 14 August 2025?

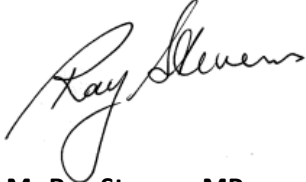
As previously advised, Standing Order 211B does not prevent you from seeking legal advice in relation to the matter. However, your legal representative will also be bound by the same confidentiality requirement. Please do not include your electorate office in correspondence with the committee about this matter.

For your information, Standing Order 211B(3)(b) provides that when the Ethics Committee makes its final report to the House on a matter the committee shall, at the same time, table any submissions received or evidence taken in respect of the matter, unless the committee resolves that some or all of its proceedings remain confidential.

The committee would appreciate if any additional information could be provided by **COB Thursday 11 September 2025**. In the absence of receiving correspondence from you by this date, we will consider that you have chosen to not respond and will finalise our consideration of this matter accordingly.

Should you have any queries regarding these matters or require further information, please contact our Committee Secretary, Amanda Honeyman (email: ethics@parliament.qld.gov.au; telephone: 3553 6610).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ray Stevens". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ray" and the last name "Stevens" clearly distinguishable.

Mr Ray Stevens MP

Chair

Enc.



Mr Ray Stevens MP
Chair, Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane, Qld, 4000

Thursday, 11 September, 2025

EMAIL: ethics@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Stevens

**MATTER OF PRIVILEGE REFERRED BY THE SPEAKER ON 22 MAY 2025 RELATING TO AN
ALLEGATION OF PUBLISHING A FALSE OR MISLEADING ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
HOUSE**

Thank you for your follow up correspondence dated 28th August, 2025, and your clear attention to detail on this matter. With regards to your questions I submit the following.

Q1. Use of the term 'beautiful'

We note that in your submission you interpret the term 'beautiful' to describe physical attributes. However, the committee welcomes your view on whether you have ever heard or used the term 'beautiful' in other contexts such as personality, demeanour, traits or behaviour?

Response: Unfortunately without understanding the context or relevance of this question to my initial response I'm unable to give this secondary response the justice it deserves. However I will attempt to respond in two ways.

Firstly, as described in my initial response the term beautiful has many meanings, the full use of which is less relevant, and instead what is relevant is how I interpreted that statement in the moment on 1 May, and how I interpreted it at the time of posting the video.

In both moments, I interpreted the response to be one referring to physical beauty and I responded from that basis.

I respectfully submit that the Committee is required to consider only, the context in which I understood this exchange to be at that time.



During the 1 May debate, I challenged the Minister from my seat about his choice of the word beautiful (while you can't hear the exchange in the video record of the day, you can clearly see that I am speaking to him).

The Minister could have at the time corrected himself or clarified his choice of words and he did not. It is clear from this exchange that I interpreted the Minister to be referring to her physical attributes.

He did not do this, rather the transcripts show that the Minister instead queries the score of the State of Origin.

My second point is this, the Minister has since submitted, that he was referring to her 'character and contributions'. Even if this were the case, it goes to highlight the bias that women in sport face and the incredibly poor choice of language from the Minister.

That an athlete like Alexa Leary with the following listed accomplishments, could have her 'contributions' reduced to being cheery and beautiful is the height of insult.

- Leary was a rising elite junior triathlete from the Sunshine Coast / Noosa region — coached and competing internationally as a junior.
- Came 1st in her age group at Mooloolaba (2020) and silver at the World Triathlon Grand Final (U18–19) — established as one of Australia's top junior triathlon prospects.
- Worked as a fitness trainer (F45 Noosa) and was training full-time toward an Olympic/elite triathlon pathway
- Was involved in a training crash in mid-July 2021 (Pomona / Sunshine Coast region), clipping the wheel of a rider ahead at high speed (75kph)
- Thrown from the bike, landed on her head, and sustained a major traumatic brain injury (TBI) with brain bleeding / blood clots. In addition to several broken bones (including a shattered right leg), broken ribs, punctured lung/collapsed lung and extensive traumatic abrasions.
- Was put into an induced coma / ICU; at times prognosis was critical and was not expected at times to survive, and ended up spending 111 days in hospital and undergoing multiple surgeries including neurosurgery.
- On discharge she faced significant memory loss (including unable to recall her name) and had to relearn basic functions such as walking and talking.
- Fell in love with swimming when it was prescribed as part of rehab. She then discovered competitive para-swimming as part of her recovery pathway.
- Classified as an S9 para-swimmer after assessment.
- Trained with specialist coaches through Bond University / Queensland high-performance supports and supported by the Queensland Academy of Sport and national programs



- In 2023 competed in the World Para Swimming Championships in Manchester where she gold medalled in the women's 100m freestyle S9 with a dominant performance, close to world record, and silver medalled in the women's 50m freestyle S9.
- In 2024 competed in at the Paris Paralympic Games, where she gold medalled in the women's 100m freestyle S9 (setting a world record in heats, gold medalled in the mixed 4×100m Medley Relay setting a Paralympic record), silver medalled in the mixed 4×100m Freestyle and finished 6th in Women's 50m freestyle S9 at Paris.
- Has continued competitive success at national meets and further elite performances (including breaking her own world record at later national/open champs in 2025).
- Was named Paralympics Australia 2024 Rookie of the Year
- Was highlighted as a major emerging para-athlete at the AIS / Swimming Australia awards (2023 Discovery / Emerging Athlete recognitions)
- Was named in 2024 for Queensland Sports Awards — as the Para-athlete of the Year
- Was nominated in 2024 for the Young Australian of the Year
- Received an OAM in 2025 for service to sport as a Paralympic gold medallist.
- Has continued to be named in charity / awareness campaigns and has inspired large fundraising efforts (the Move For Lex campaign raised six-figure sums to support ICU families and neurorehabilitation resources).
- Has continued to speak publicly about severe mental-health challenges during recovery and the role of family, community fundraising and sport in rebuilding her life and identity.
- Become a national icon for resilience: widely covered in national media and featured in organisational profiles including QAS and Paralympics Australia.

It is so deeply offensive to me, and I submit, most Queensland women, that an athlete of this calibre has been reduced to the adjectives of cheery and beautiful.

Leary's background is easily locatable. The Sports Minister had the capacity and resources to investigate the background of Leary before naming her in his written and prepared speech on the 1 May, 2025.

The Sports Minister has had, since his speech, the capacity and resources to familiarise himself with both her accomplishments, and the long and documented history of women in sport struggling for recognition beyond adjectives.

Rather, the Sports Minister has instead chosen to put his time and energy into the pursuit of an ethics referral, and, alarmingly continued to refer to women in positions of authority and respect as 'cheery and beautiful' as demonstrated in the 11 June debate and interaction with the Member for Stafford – outlined in my original response.



This highlights a cultural and engrained issue with the Sports Minister, and I ask the Committee to recommend that the Minister attend appropriate training to better understand his role in supporting women in sports.

Q2: Your reasons for removing the posts when you did.

We note from the referral and your submission that you removed the post from Facebook around 13 May 2025 but elected to not remove it from Instagram until 22 May 2025, and from Tik Tok until 19 August 2025.

We seek your response on the reasons for not taking down the social media posts following requests from the Clerk and subsequently the Speaker until the dates listed in your submission. of the committee makes it a challenge to really appreciate the experiences, views, and history of women's experiences in relation to being described and reduced to our physical attributes.

Response 2: As outlined in my initial response, the Facebook post was removed immediately on advice of the Clerk.

I was of the genuine belief that other posts were removed immediately on instruction of the Speaker.

It was brought to my attention on 19 August from my lawyer that the Tik Tok post had not been successfully removed despite my initial efforts to do so. I then investigated further and removed the post. I can confirm that I was unaware that the Tik Tok post was still current and cannot explain how that has occurred as I personally removed it. I can only presume that it went into the 'archive' function and was restored rather than deleted.

No one prior to my lawyer had raised that with me and I removed the content immediately upon them raising with me.

There was certainly no disobedience, as soon as I was instructed by the Speaker to remove the content I did.

I accept that the Tik Tok post – for reasons unbeknownst to me – were not successfully removed however again no person until my lawyer raised that with me, it was simply an oversight until my lawyer observed that on August 19.



3. The reasons for not meeting three timeframes for providing a submission to the committee.

The committee notes the three extensions granted to provide a written submission. The committee seeks an explanation as to your reluctance to provide a submission in a timely manner, i.e. why did you fail to meet the initial three timeframes of 26 June, 25 July and 14 August 2025?

Response 3: I thank the Committee for their approval of my requests for extensions, which were made for personal reasons. I am however confused about the Committee now requesting further information.

I would think that the appropriate time for the Committee to request further information from me would be at the time of making the decision to approve an extension. I fail to see how this is a relevant factor in determining the outcome of the ethics referral.

If it were the case that a request for an extension of time would have an adverse effect on this matter I respectfully submit that information ought to have been made available to me at the time I requested the extensions.

In summing up, I respectfully submit that again the elements of the alleged contempt's raised against me have not been satisfied.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jonty Bush".

Jonty Bush MP
Member for Cooper

Jonty
BUSH MP

MEMBER FOR COOPER

📍 2/230 Waterworks Road, Ashgrove QLD 4060
📱 Jonty Bush - Member for Cooper

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Ethics Committee

Ethics Committee

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Ref: A1601300

29 October 2025

Ms Jonty Bush MP
Member for Cooper
By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Bush

Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 22 May 2025 relating to an allegation of publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings of the House by the member for Cooper

I refer to the Ethics Committee's previous correspondence in this matter and to your submissions dated 19 August and 11 September 2025.

Having considered the material before it, the committee did not find any contempt under Standing Order 266(13).

However, the committee made a preliminary finding of contempt under section 58(3) of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* which provides '*Publication of a parliamentary record in contravention of a condition imposed by the Assembly is a contempt of the Assembly*'. The Broadcast Footage Terms and Conditions (BFTCs) are 'a condition imposed by the Assembly' and state:

3. Excerpts of proceedings are to be placed in context so as to avoid any misrepresentation.

In reaching this finding, the committee considered that the excerpt of proceedings you used in your social media posts was not placed in context and, as such, contravened the BFTCs.

The next step is for the committee to provide a report to the Parliament on this matter. In its report, the committee is required to recommend the action to be taken by the Parliament in relation to any finding of contempt. This will inform the Parliament's consideration of any penalty in relation to the contempt.¹

In the past, the Ethics Committee has recommended to the Legislative Assembly penalties for contempt ranging from an unqualified apology, to admonishment, through to a fine.

Prior to the committee reporting to the House, the committee invites you to provide a submission in relation to an appropriate penalty. While not required by Standing Orders, the committee offers this opportunity in accordance with the principles of natural justice. It is important that you provide your submission by **COB Tuesday 11 November 2025**.

¹ Section 39 of the [Parliament of Queensland Act 2001](#).

For your reference, **enclosed** is a schedule of sanctions for contempt of Parliament recommended by previous Ethics Committees, which may assist with your submission.

You are again reminded that this matter is strictly confidential in accordance with Standing Order 211B and that you may only disclose this matter to your legal advisors. **Please ensure that any response does not involve your electorate officers and is provided directly from yourself or your legal representative.**

Please further note that the committee, when making its final report to the House on a matter will publish the minutes of its proceedings and any submissions received or evidence taken, unless the committee resolves that some of its proceedings will remain confidential.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact the Ethics Committee Secretary, Amanda Honeyman (phone: 3553 6600, or email ethics@parliament.qld.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray Stevens', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ray Stevens MP
Chair

Enc.

CONTEMPT - PENALTIES TABLE

Title		Complaint	Penalty and/or action
Select Committee of Privileges – Report No. 15	Matter referred by the Legislative Assembly on 7 June 1990	Media release by the Leader of the Opposition bringing into question the impartiality of the Speaker. In media release Mr Cooper said the Speaker was “got at” and “forced into a backflip”	Finding of contempt. The committee noted that similar breaches had attracted penalties in the order of 7 days. The committee left the question of penalty to the House. The member was suspended for the remainder of the sitting day.
Select Committee of Privileges – Report No. 22	A Forged Submission to a Parliamentary Committee dated 18 December 1991	Concluded that presenting a submission to a parliamentary committee under a fictitious signature, in circumstances likely to mislead the committee, constituted contempt. Mr Amprimo summonsed and attended a private hearing of the committee. Mr Amprimo was guilty of contempt of Parliament but tendered a sincere apology to the House and showed remorse and accepted responsibility for his contempt.	Finding of contempt. Committee recommended no further action be taken due to his sincere apology tendered to the House, remorse and acceptance of responsibility for his contempt.
MEPPC – Report No. 31	Report on a Matter of Privilege — Matter Referred to the Committee on 25 March 1999	Mr Sharples served a subpoena on Mrs Pratt within Parliamentary precincts on 3 March 1999. Mr Sharples was assisted by Mr Briggs.	Finding of contempt against Mr Sharples. Committee recognised that Mr Sharples, Mr Briggs and Mrs Pratt were all unaware at the time that it was not appropriate and a contempt to serve a summons on the Parliamentary precincts when the House was sitting.

Title		Complaint	Penalty and/or action
			In the circumstances, the committee recommended that the Assembly take no further action in respect of the matter.
MEPPC – Report No. 35	Report on a Matter of Privilege — A Member Making Deliberately Misleading Statement in a “Dissenting Report”	Member for Ipswich West, Mr Paff committed contempt of the House by making a deliberately misleading statement in a “Dissenting Report” tabled on 11 March 1999.	<p>Finding of contempt.</p> <p>Admonished for his conduct, and that the Speaker on behalf of the House deliver the admonishment to the member standing in his place.</p> <p>Suspension from the services and the precincts of the House for 21 days.</p> <p>MEPPC and the Speaker strongly recommended that Mr Paff apologise.</p>
MEPPC — Report No. 40	Report on a Matter of Privilege — Matter Referred to the Committee on 3 December 1999	On the balance of probabilities, Mr Wood fraudulently misrepresented himself as the consultant to the Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee in relation to its inquiry into the consolidation of the Queensland Constitution, and in so doing committed a contempt of the Parliament.	<p>A finding of contempt.</p> <p>Following the tabling and publication of the committee’s report, the House resolved that the Speaker on behalf of the House forward copies of the committee’s report to a number of associations, commissions and an individual, including the Law Society of Qld, Bar Association of Qld and Mr Wood’s current and past employers.</p>
MEPPC – Report No. 41	Report on a Matter of Privilege – Matter Concerning the Disorderly Conduct by Members of Parliament within the Parliamentary Precinct	Member for Tablelands and Member for Barambah committed a contempt of the Parliament by engaging in disorderly and disrespectful conduct in the precincts of the Parliament while it was in session and behaving	<p>Finding of contempt.</p> <p>Both members suspended from the services of the precincts of the House for 28 days.</p> <p>That the House discharge the Member for Tablelands from membership of the MEPPC.</p>

Title		Complaint	Penalty and/or action
		in a manner not befitting members of Parliament.	MEPPC recommended that both members not permitted to take their seat in the House until they undertake to the Speaker that they are prepared to unreservedly apologise to the House for their actions and they actually apologise in the House at the first opportunity.
MEPPC – Report No. 72	Matter of Privilege Referred by the Speaker on 24 August 2005 Relating to the Alleged Misleading of Estimates Committee D	Inquiry into allegations that Member for Sandgate had deliberately mislead Estimates Committee D. The alleged contempt, at the time, could be considered both a contempt of Parliament and an offence against the <i>Criminal Code</i> .	<p>The House resolved to deal with the matter as a contempt and to accept the Member for Sandgate's resignation as a minister and a member of the Executive Council, and his apology to the Parliament as an appropriate penalty.</p> <p>As a result, there was no longer a matter for the MEPPC to consider and the committee resolved to consider the reference closed.</p>
MEPPC – Report No. 90	Matter of Privilege Referred by the Deputy Speaker on 28 February 2008 Relating to Alleged Reflections on the Speaker	Matter concerned allegations that the Member for Nicklin has adversely reflected upon the Chair on numerous occasions both inside and outside the House.	<p>Finding of contempt for reflections on the Chair made outside the House.</p> <p>MEPPC recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the Member for Nicklin unreservedly apologise to the House and the Speaker; and ▪ that the Member for Nicklin be suspended forthwith from the services and precincts of the House for 21 days.
IEPPC – Report No. 105	Matter of Privilege Referred by the Speaker on 13 November 2006 Relating to the Alleged Failure by a	Matter concerned allegations that the former Minister failed to disclose 36 payments received	The committee recommended the House impose a fine of \$2000 for each of the 36 separate occasions of

Title		Complaint	Penalty and/or action
	Former Member to Register a Payment Received in the Register of Members' Interests.	from Mr Talbot (35) and Mr Shand (1), in the Register of Interests.	contempt for non-disclosure of the payments received from Mr Talbot (35) and Mr Shand (1). The House adopted this recommendation.
IEPPC – Report No. 114	Matter of Privilege Referred by the Registrar on 18 November 2010 Relating to the Alleged Failure by a Member to Register an Interest in the Register of Members' Interests	Matter concerned allegations that the former Minister failed to disclose payments received from Mr McKennarney on the Register of Interests on 5 separate occasions.	The committee recommended the House impose a fine of \$2000 for each of the 5 separate occasions of contempt for non-disclosure of the payments received from Mr McKennarney. The House adopted this recommendation.
Ethics Committee – Report No. 118	Matter of Privilege referred by the Speaker on 26 May 2011 relating to alleged insufficient care being taken by a Member when tabling documents and on 10 June 2011 relating to an alleged breach of the sub judice rule by a member when tabling documents & Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 18 August 2011 relating to an alleged contempt of impugning the Assembly's ethics processes and by pre-judging an inquiry outcome impugning the Ethics Committee's processes and deliberations	Matter concerned allegations that the Member for Burnett, Mr Rob Messenger MP breached Standing Orders relating to tabling documents by failing to redact the names of children under protection and breach the sub judice rule. A secondary matter concerned allegations that the Member made reflections on the Speaker and pre-empted the outcome of the committee's inquiry.	The committee made a finding of contempt in relation to two breaches of Standing Orders (Standing Order 233 and 35) and recommended Mr Messenger be suspended from the precinct for two sitting days for breach of SO35 and three sitting days for breach of SO233 to be served cumulatively. The committee found no prima facie case in relation to the second matter and recommended the House take no further action. The House agreed to the committee's recommendations.

Title		Complaint	Penalty and/or action
Ethics Committee – Report No. 133	Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 28 November 2012 relating to an alleged reflection on the Chair	<p>The matter concerned an allegation that the member for Bundamba, Mrs Jo-Ann Miller MP reflected on the Chair in a statement made in the House on 28 November 2012.</p> <p><i>Mrs MILLER: Madam Speaker, I have been vilified by you in this parliament for the last six months.</i></p>	<p>The committee found the member's contempt to be at the lower end of the scale, and in the circumstances did not warrant a recommendation for suspension from the Assembly.</p> <p>However, as the Ethics Committee sits in judgement of allegations against its peers relating to their conduct in the House, the committee was of the view that should the House accept its recommendation that the member for Bundamba be found guilty of contempt, that it would be appropriate that the member be suspended from the membership of the ethics committee for a period of time.</p> <p>The committee unanimously recommended that the House suspend the member for Bundamba from the Ethics Committee for a period of three (3) months from the date the committee's recommendation is considered by the House.</p>
Ethics Committee – Report No. 139	On 19 November 2013, the Ethics Committee tabled its report in relation to allegations that the former Member for Redcliffe had failed to register interests in the Register of Members' Interest and Register of Related Persons' Interest and deliberately misled the House.	The Ethics Committee found that the former Member for Redcliffe was required to register 14 different interests in the Register of Members' Interest and Register of Related Persons' Interest on 48 occasions.	<p>The committee concluded that the former Member for Redcliffe knowingly failed to register the 14 interests in the appropriate timeframe, and had therefore committed a contempt of Parliament. The committee recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no penalty be imposed in relation to two counts on the basis that the former Member for Redcliffe took steps to rectify the situation prior to the allegation being made; • a fine of \$1,000 in relation to four counts of contempt related to the Register of Related Persons' Interest on the basis that no steps were taken by the former Member for

Title		Complaint	Penalty and/or action
			<p>Redcliffe to rectify the situation even after he took steps to declare his own role in an organisation; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a fine of \$2,000 be imposed in relation to 42 counts of contempt on the basis that they were significant and the House should follow the precedent in the matters relating to the former Member for Sandgate (see above) to reflect the gravity of each offence and to send a strong message to Members and the public about the level of accountability expected of Members of Parliament. <p>The Ethics Committee considered the cumulative effect of the findings of contempt, including the contempt of deliberately misleading the House (see above), specifically with respect to the common issue of the former Member for Redcliffe's role with QRTSA and the potential conflict of his private interests with his role as a Member of Parliament. The Ethics Committee concluded that the House retained the power to expel a member by virtue of its link to the UK House of Commons.</p> <p>The Ethics Committee recommended that the former Member for Redcliffe be expelled from the House in order to protect the honour and dignity of the House and that the seat of Redcliffe be declared vacant.</p> <p>The former Member for Redcliffe subsequently resigned as a Member of Parliament. The former member was called to address the House from the Bar on 21 November 2013 to explain his actions. The</p>

Title		Complaint	Penalty and/or action
			former Member for Redcliffe was provided with 45 minutes to address the House from the Bar. The House passed a motion to accept the Ethics Committee's recommendations and the former member was fined \$90,000. The House also endorsed the Ethics Committee finding that the cumulative effect of the conduct would warrant expulsion from the Legislative Assembly.
Ethics Committee Report No. 162	Inquiry into Matter of Privilege referred by the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee on 17 August 2015 relating to alleged unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings	<p>On 17 February 2016, the Ethics Committee tabled its report in relation to allegations of unauthorised disclosure of PCCC proceedings to the media by persons unknown, and in relation to allegations that the Member for Warrego made unauthorised disclosures of PCCC proceedings and deliberately misled the PCCC and Ethics Committee.</p> <p>The matter concerned allegations that a person/s unknown had disclosed PCCC proceedings to the media.</p> <p>The matter also concerned an allegation that the Member for Warrego had made an unauthorised disclosure of PCCC proceedings in an email sent to the PCCC members, secretariat and the Premier's generic email addresses on 12 July 2015</p> <p>In the process of investigating the matters above, the Ethics Committee also initiated investigations into the possible contempts by</p>	<p>The committee was unable to make a finding on the unauthorised release of PCCC proceedings to the media by person/s unknown.</p> <p>The Ethics Committee concluded that the Member for Warrego made unauthorised disclosures of committee proceedings of the PCCC by including the Premier's generic and electorate office email addresses in her email of 12 July 2015 and by involving Mr Jake Smith in the preparation of the email to the PCCC of 12 July 2015.</p> <p>The committee also concluded that the Member for Warrego deliberately misled the PCCC and Ethics Committee by not disclosing the assistance provided by Mr Jake Smith, Chief of Staff to the Leader of the Opposition, in the preparation of the email sent to the PCCC members, secretariat and the Premier's generic email addresses on 12 July 2015.</p> <p>The Ethics Committee recommended that:</p>

Title		Complaint	Penalty and/or action
		the Member for Warrego of unauthorised disclosure of PCCC proceedings to Mr Jake Smith, Chief of Staff to the Leader of the Opposition in the preparation of the email sent on 12 July 2015, and deliberately misleading the PCCC and the Ethics Committee by not mentioning Mr Smith's involvement during their investigations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the House suspend the Member for Warrego from all committees for a period of six (6) months from the date the committee's recommendation is considered by the House. The committee noted that this recommendation if accepted will involve a financial impost on the member in terms of foregoing the additional salary component payable to members who undertake committee duties. the Member for Warrego be admonished for that conduct and that the Speaker on behalf of the House deliver the admonishment to the member standing in her place. <p>The committee also concluded that the Member for Warrego should not be appointed to the PCCC for the remainder of the 55th Parliament, but didn't make a specific recommendation on this conclusion.</p>
Ethics Committee Report No. 168	Matter of Privilege referred by the Agriculture and Environment Committee on 20 April 2016 relating to an alleged unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings and an alleged deliberate misleading of a committee.	<p>On 17 June 2016, the Ethics Committee tabled its report on an allegation that the Member for Burnett made an unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings and an alleged deliberate misleading of a committee.</p> <p>The matter concerned allegations referred by the Agriculture and Environment Committee on 20 April 2016 relating to:</p>	<p>The committee found that by disclosing the Chair's draft report recommendations to the QRC without the AEC's authorisation and prior to the AEC reporting or publishing those proceedings, the Member for Burnett's actions resulted in an improper interference with the AEC's authority and functions.</p> <p>The Ethics Committee recommended that a finding of contempt be made and the appropriate penalty for the Member for Burnett was to make an unqualified</p>

Title		Complaint	Penalty and/or action
		<p>1. an unauthorised disclosure of Agriculture and Environment Committee (AEC) proceedings by providing the Chair of the AEC, Mr Glenn Butcher MP, Member for Gladstone's (Chair of the AEC) draft report recommendations on the Environmental Protection (Chain of Responsibility) Amendment Bill 2016 (the bill) to officers of the Queensland Resources Council (QRC); and</p> <p>2. deliberately misleading the AEC in his email to the members and secretariat of the AEC which included a document containing proposed edits to the Chair's draft recommendations</p>	<p>apology to the House and the AEC for the contempt of unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings.</p> <p>On the matter of the Member for Burnett deliberately misleading the AEC, the committee found there was no evidence that the member was aware that his email was misleading as he believed the author details of those drafting and modifying the document were clear to the members of the AEC, and therefore he did not intend to mislead the AEC.</p>
Ethics Committee Report No. 189	Matter of Privilege referred by the Speaker on 12 October 2018 relating to an alleged contempt of Parliament by the Premier and Minister for Trade.	<p>On 22 October 2019 the Ethics Committee tabled its report on the actions of the Premier in withdrawing resources from the Katter Australia Party (KAP) when they would not denounce comments made by Senator Fraser Anning in his 'final solution' speech in the Senate.</p> <p>There were four allegations of contempt: threatening/intimidating a member, molestation of a member, compulsion by menace and improper interference with KAP members.</p>	<p>The committee found that on the allegations of threatening/intimidating a member, molestation of a member and compulsion by menace no contempts were made out.</p> <p>The committee found that the Premier was in contempt for actions which amounted to an improper interference with the free performance of the KAP members of their duties as members. Her actions were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Threatening to withdraw parliamentary resources from KAP members unless they made a statement to the Premier's satisfaction condemning Senator Anning's speech in the Senate; and ▪ Withdrawing parliamentary resources from KAP members on the basis that they failed to make a

Title		Complaint	Penalty and/or action
			<p>statement to the Premier's satisfaction condemning Senator Anning's speech in the senate.</p> <p>The committee recommended that the Premier apologise to the House, on the floor of the House, as soon as practicable for her actions in seeking to improperly influence KAP members.</p> <p>And, after an apology is tendered, and if the House believes the apology is adequate, the House should resolve that the Premier is in contempt.</p> <p>The committee considered several mitigating factors when it decided on penalty.</p>
Ethics Committee Report No. 197	Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 26 March 2019 relating to alleged contempt by a Member.	<p>On 18 February 2020, the Ethics Committee tabled its report the actions of the Member for Maiwar during a climate change protest on 15 March 2019. The member wore a t-shirt with a political slogan, and waved to the crowd from the Porte Cochere.</p> <p>The allegation was that these actions amounted to disorderly conduct on the parliamentary precinct and were a contempt of parliament.</p>	<p>While the committee did find that the Member for Maiwar was in contempt of Parliament, his behaviour was distinguished from another matter that considered disorderly conduct on the parliamentary precinct.</p> <p>The committee determined that the Member for Maiwar's conduct was in a similar class, but of a differing degree of severity when comparing to the previous matter. Therefore, a finding of contempt was made, but no other penalty was recommended.</p>
Ethics Committee Report No. 200	Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 21 February 2019 relating to an alleged contempt by a Member.	<p>On 11 August 2020, the Ethics Committee tabled its report on the allegations that the Member for Everton had breached Standing Order 271, and that this breach also amounted to wilfully disobeying an order of the House under SO 266(22).</p>	<p>The committee found that the Member for Everton had breached SO 271, and was therefore guilty of contempt.</p> <p>However, the committee felt that the Member for Everton lacked the requisite intent to warrant a finding of wilfully disobeying the House (breach SO 266(22)).</p>

Title		Complaint	Penalty and/or action
			<p>The committee found that rather than intentionally breaching SO 271, the Member for Everton was acting under a mistaken belief that his question did not enliven the standing order because it related to matters of procedure, rather than substantive matters.</p> <p>The committee recommended that the Member for Everton apologise to the House, on the floor of the House, as soon as practicable for breaching SO 271.</p>
Ethics Committee Report No. 206	Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 13 August 2020 relating to the alleged behaviour of a visitor signed into the parliamentary precinct by a member, and the failure of the member to adequately supervise that visitor.	<p>On 27 May 2021, the Ethics Committee tabled its report on the following allegations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Member for Mirani did not adequately supervise Mr Troy Thompson, a guest that the said member signed for access into the Parliament Precinct. 2. That Mr Thompson sought to intimidate the Member for Thuringowa by (a) taking photos of the Member for Thuringowa's office door and office sign without the permission of the Member for Thuringowa; (b) interfering with the personal office sign of the Member for Thuringowa with political material without the permission of the Member for Thuringowa; and c. publishing photos of the acts referred to in (a) and (b) above on a Facebook page attributable to Mr Thompson. 3. The allegation that Mr Thompson carried an item which conveyed a political message into the 	<p><u>Member for Mirani</u></p> <p>In relation to allegations 1 and 4 made against the Member for Mirani, the committee found the elements necessary to establish a contempt of disorderly conduct on the parliamentary precinct could not be satisfied. Therefore the Member for Mirani was not found guilty of a contempt.</p> <p><u>Mr Thompson</u></p> <p>In relation to allegation 3 concerning disorderly conduct on the parliamentary precinct, the committee found that both elements necessary to establish a contempt were met. Therefore, Mr Troy Thompson was found guilty of a contempt.</p> <p>The committee considered that Mr Thompson's behaviour, whilst immature, was at the lower end of the scale and therefore, the committee did not consider a financial penalty appropriate. However, the committee considered Mr Thompson demonstrated he</p>

Title		Complaint	Penalty and/or action
		<p>Parliamentary Precinct in breach of the Speaker's Direction dated 19 April 2018 and published photos of the same on a Facebook page attributable to Mr Thompson and by doing so acted contrary to the dignity of the Assembly; and</p> <p>4. The allegation that the Member for Mirani did not take any steps to prevent a breach of the Speaker's Direction dated 19 April 2018 by Mr Thompson.</p>	<p>cannot uphold the standards of behaviour required of a visitor to preserve the dignity of the Parliament.</p> <p>The committee recommended that the House take no further action and that the Speaker ban Mr Troy Thompson from the parliamentary precinct under section 50 of the <i>Parliamentary Service Act 1988</i>.</p> <p>In relation to allegation 2 concerning intimidation of a member, the committee found that the elements necessary to establish a contempt could not be established. Therefore, Mr Thompson was not found guilty of a contempt.</p>
Ethics Committee Report No. 208	Matter of privilege referred by the State Development and Regional Industries Committee on 27 May 2021 relating to an alleged unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings	<p>On 26 October 2021, the Ethics Committee tabled its report on the following allegations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Member for Burleigh allegedly disclosed unauthorised committee proceedings when he referred to a confidentiality clause within an Indigenous land use agreement (ILUA). The ILUA had been provided as part of a submission to the committee and was not made public. 2. The Member for Burleigh, in the House, discussed how the committee had voted with respect to a motion that was moved to publish the ILUA, thus disclosing confidential committee proceedings. 	<p>In its Report No. 208, the Ethics Committee made a finding of contempt concerning the unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings by a member. The Ethics Committee recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that the House make a finding of contempt against the member for the unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings • that the member take it upon himself as soon as practicable to unreservedly apologise to the House, on the floor of the House, for the unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings, and • if the House considers the apology tendered is adequate, that the House accept the member's apology as the appropriate and final penalty in accordance with section 39 of the <i>Parliament of Queensland Act 2001</i>.

Title		Complaint	Penalty and/or action
Ethics Committee Report No. 214	Matter of privilege referred by the State Development and Regional Industries Committee on 26 May 2022 relating to an alleged unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings	On 25 May 2023, the Ethics Committee tabled its report in relation to the allegation Mayor Dempsey and Mr Steve Johnston made an unauthorised disclosure of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee's proceedings.	<p>Finding of contempt.</p> <p>The committee recommended:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the House make a finding of contempt against Mayor Dempsey for the unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings and, noting his apology dated 12 May 2023, take no further action in respect of this matter; and 2. That the Minister for Local Government considers proposing an amendment to the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> to include parliamentary privilege as an exemption under section 170A, any proposal to be considered by the House as soon as practicable.
Ethics Committee Report No. 216	Matter of Privilege referred by the Speaker on 1 December 2022 relating to an allegation of wilfully or recklessly disrespecting rulings of the Speaker	On 26 October 2023, the Ethics committee tabled its report in relation to the allegation that the Member for South Brisbane wilfully or recklessly disrespected rulings of the Speaker	<p>Finding of contempt.</p> <p>The committee recommended:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A finding of contempt be made against the Member for South Brisbane for wilfully disobeying an order of the House and disrupting the orderly conduct of the business of the House. 2. The Member for South Brisbane should take it upon herself as soon as practicable to apologise unequivocally to the House and the

Title		Complaint	Penalty and/or action
			<p>Speaker, on the floor of the House, for her conduct.</p> <p>3. That if the Member for South Brisbane fails to apologise, or makes an inadequate apology, the House suspend the Member for South Brisbane from the precincts of the House for one sitting day from the date the committee's recommendation is considered by the House.</p> <p>4. The Committee of the Legislative Assembly consider an amendment to Standing Orders to place beyond doubt the position of this Parliament, consistent with other Westminster parliaments, on the question of revenue bills.</p> <p>On 14 November 2023, the contempt motion was agreed to noting the member had not apologised following the tabling of the committee's report and was suspended for a sitting day.</p>
Ethics Committee Report No. 217 (and related Report No. 222)	Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 16 March 2023: the Member for Maiwar, relating to misconducting oneself in the presence of the House or reflecting the Chair	On 26 October 2023, the Ethics Committee tabled its report in relation to an allegation that the Member for Maiwar misconducted himself in the presence of the House and reflected on the actions of the decisions of the Chair	<p>Finding of contempt.</p> <p>The committee recommended:</p> <p>1. A finding of contempt be made against the Member for Maiwar for misconducting oneself in the presence of the House or a committee and reflecting on the actions or decisions of the Chair.</p>

Title		Complaint	Penalty and/or action
			<p>2. The Member for Maiwar should take it upon himself as soon as practicable to apologise unequivocally to the House and the Speaker, on the floor of the House, for his conduct.</p> <p>On 14 November 2023, the House noted the member had not apologised and agreed to a motion to refer the matter back to the committee to recommend the action that should be taken. The motion did not include a finding of contempt.</p>
		On 7 March 2023, the Ethics Committee tabled its report on the re-referred matter	<p>The committee condemned the Member's failure to apologise in the House after the committee's recommendation. That the Member subsequently advertised and sought popular affirmation for his actions via social media and demonstrated immaturity.</p> <p>The committee recommended:</p> <p>(1) That the House make a finding of contempt against the Member for Maiwar for misconducting oneself in the presence of the House or a committee and reflecting on the actions or decisions of the Chair</p> <p>(2) That the House notes the Member for Maiwar's stated refusal to apologise, and</p> <p>(3) That the Member be suspended from the precinct for a period of one sitting day from the time a motion to that effect is agreed by the House.</p>

Title		Complaint	Penalty and/or action
Ethics Committee Report No. 223	Matter of privilege referred by the Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee on 6 March 2024 relating to an alleged unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings	On 14 June 2024, the Ethics Committee tabled its report relating to an allegation that Ms Mary Walsh published an unauthorised extract of a private committee transcript online.	Find of contempt. Based on Ms Walsh's recalcitrance in her dealings with the committee and noting that no apology had been tendered to the committee as part of its consideration of the matter, the committee determined that it would be appropriate for the Speaker to admonish Ms Walsh for her conduct, in writing.
Ethics Committee Report No. 224	Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 7 March 2024 relating to allegations members involved themselves in disorderly conduct on the parliamentary precinct	On 14 June 2024, the Ethics Committee tabled its report relating to allegations that the member for Traeger, Mr Robbie Katter MP and the member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Nick Dametto MP engaged in disorderly conduct on the parliamentary precinct by involving themselves in protest activity occurring outside the precinct	Finding of contempt against both members. Noted there were different mitigating factors in the matter compared to Report No. 41, specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the members in this matter admitted that their conduct amounted to a contempt, offered to unreservedly apologise and conceded that their actions were ill-considered, and • the members did not cause any damage to the parliamentary precinct, and no public resources were used as a result of their actions (noting the Queensland Police Service were already policing the protest and were not specifically called to deal with the members' behaviour). The committee determined that the appropriate penalty is for the members to apologise unequivocally to the House for their conduct.
Ethics Committee Report No. 225	Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 5 March 2024 regarding	On 22 August 2024, the Ethics Committee tabled its reporting relating to allegations that the member for Coomera, Mr Michael Crandon MP	There was a finding of contempt against the member for Coomera under s 37 of the POQA.

Title		Complaint	Penalty and/or action
	the spying of a member's phone in the Chamber	took photos of the member for Pumicestone's, Ms Ali King MP, phone in the Chamber without her knowledge. The image of the phone was then provided to the media. Mr Crandon admitted to taking the photo and sharing with others, but denied that he provided it to the media.	The member for Coomera identified himself as the person who took the photo after it appeared in the media. He also apologised in the House at the time and also personally to Ms King. The committee accepted his apology in the House as an appropriate penalty.
Ethics Committee Report No. 230	Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 23 May 2024 relating to a member's refusal to follow the Speaker's direction to withdraw	There was an exchange in the House between the Minister for Health, Mental Health, Ambulance Services and Minister for Women, Hon Shannon Fentiman MP and the member for Mudgeeraba, Ms Ros Bates MP on 23 May 2024. The Minister found comments by the member personally offensive and asked that they be withdrawn. The Speaker, in accordance with SO 234, asked the member to withdraw on three separate occasions. The member eventually responded with 'I am a victim and I do not withdraw'.	Finding of contempt. The committee determined that the member's failure to comply with the direction as disrespectful to the authority of the Speaker and a reflection on the Speaker. The committee recommended that the member apologise unequivocally to the House, on the floor of the House, at the earliest opportunity as penalty.



Ray Stevens MP

Chair, Ethics Committee
Parliament House
Brisbane QLD 4000

10 November, 2025

Dear Mr Stevens

Re: Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 22 May 2025 – Submission on penalty

Thank you for your correspondence of 29 October 2025 advising the Committee's preliminary finding of contempt under section 58(3) of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, relating to the publication of broadcast footage in contravention of the Broadcast Footage Terms and Conditions (BFTCs).

I acknowledge the Committee's findings and appreciate the opportunity to make this submission on the question of penalty, in accordance with the principles of natural justice.

Having reflected carefully on the Committee's decision and on previous determinations of the Ethics Committee and its predecessors, I respectfully submit that this matter sits at the lower end of the spectrum of contempt and that the appropriate and proportionate penalty would be an **apology to the House**.

For the Committee's consideration, I also note the statutory framework in section 37(2) of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, which provides that conduct is not contempt of the Assembly unless it amounts, or is intended or likely to amount, to one or more of the following:

- (a) obstructing or impairing, or attempting to obstruct or impair, the functioning of the Assembly or a committee;
- (b) intimidating any person, or attempting to intimidate any person, in connection with the business of the Assembly or a committee; or
- (c) doing any other thing that undermines the authority or dignity of the Assembly.

While I accept the Committee's finding of a technical contempt under section 58(3), I respectfully submit that my conduct does not meet the substantive threshold contemplated by section 37(2).

My actions did not obstruct or impair the functioning of the Assembly or any committee, did not seek to intimidate or influence any person in connection with parliamentary business, and did not, in substance, undermine the authority or dignity of the Assembly.

The conduct was inadvertent, with no improper motive or consequence beyond a minor breach of the Broadcast Footage Terms and Conditions. Accordingly, I submit that this matter sits at the very lowest end of the scale of contempt's recognised under the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*.

When considered against precedent, a penalty of an apology aligns with the Committee's own past practice. Comparable matters attracting an apology as penalty include:

- **Report No. 72** – a finding of contempt for deliberately misleading an Estimates Committee (a matter which could also have engaged the *Criminal Code*);
- **Report No. 168** – a member's unauthorised disclosure of confidential committee material and alleged misleading of the committee;

- **Report No. 189** – improper interference with other members by threatening to withdraw resources;
- **Report No. 200** – a breach of Standing Order 271 amounting to a contempt of the House;
- **Report No. 208** – unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings;
- **Report No. 216** – wilful disregard of a ruling of the Speaker;
- **Report No. 217** – misconduct in the presence of the House and reflection on the Chair;
- **Report No. 224** – disorderly conduct on the parliamentary precinct;
- **Report No. 225** – intentional breach of Standing Orders by photographing a member's private phone during proceedings; and
- **Report No. 230** – breach of the broadcast rules, closely analogous to my own matter.

Each of these cases involved conduct more deliberate or serious in nature than the inadvertent contravention found in my case, yet the penalty imposed or recommended by the Committee was a formal apology on the floor of the House.

Accordingly, and with the utmost respect for the authority of the Committee and the House, I submit that an unqualified apology in the House would represent a just, proportionate, and precedent-consistent penalty. I remain willing to tender such an apology at the earliest opportunity should the House so resolve.

Thank you for the Committee's consideration of this submission.

Yours sincerely



Jonty Bush MP
Member for Cooper

Jonty **BUSH** MP

MEMBER FOR COOPER

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