




Speech By  
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**MEMBER FOR THEODORE**

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**INFORMATION PRIVACY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL;  
PUBLIC RECORDS BILL**

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (4.56 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the cognate debate but specifically on the Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 as a member of the committee that looked into the bill. Firstly, I want to say thanks to my fellow committee members for the work we did on this bill. It was quite interesting to learn how the federal Privacy Act worked and its ramifications for the state and other entities.

The primary functions of the legislation we are talking about here today are: to strengthen Queensland's information privacy framework to better protect personal information and improve responses and remedies for data breaches and data misuse; to clarify and improve the operation of Queensland's information privacy and right to information frameworks; and to provide for the proactive release of cabinet documents.

There were three recommendations made. I want to focus on some of the concerns that the Local Government Association Queensland expressed during the committee hearings. I understand where they are coming from, especially when you look at smaller regional, remote and First Nations councils. It is very difficult to attract necessary IT professionals to work in those remote areas. That is one concern that the Local Government Association expressed, and there is also the cost of it.

We all want data protected. We all want data to be kept safe. We want to make sure that these hacking incidents are kept to a minimum. During the committee hearings the department stated that a lot of the data breaches are caused by human error—that is, the accidental sending of emails to the wrong individuals which, as you can understand, is a breach of privacy. These issues are normally caused by human error. When it comes to the hacking of computer systems, it will always be a major issue between the hackers and the internet security and IT professionals trying to deal with it. It will always be a long cat-and-mouse game.

When it comes to local councils, I do agree with the Local Government Association of Queensland. We do need to give them some type of support—whether it is monetary or, even better, technical—to help them implement these systems, because a small council with a very small ratepayer base will find it extremely difficult to fund this. The Local Government Association stated that they are looking at costs upwards of \$300,000 per annum. If you are looking at a very small council with a very small rate base, it is a massive impost on those councils. That is something that the government does need to look into to support these councils.

Cybersecurity is everyone's responsibility. It is a very important matter for all levels of government. I want to thank committee members for their work on this matter and all of the submitters who took the time to address the concerns of the committee. I found it interesting to learn how the Privacy Act works federally and how we line it up with state bodies, local governments and their agencies. With those comments, I commend the bill to the House.