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Leanne
Linard MP

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

3 November 2025

The Honourable Pat Weir MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Queensland Parliament
BRISBANE QLD 4000

VIA EMAIL: speaker@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Speaker

I write in respect of statements made by the Minister for Environment and Tourism, Minister for Science and Innovation, the Honourable Andrew Powell MP (the Member for Glass House), in the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament, on Tuesday October 28, 2025.

There are three elements to be proven to establish that a Member of Parliament has committed the contempt of deliberately misleading the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament, they are:

1. The statement must have been misleading;
2. The Member of Parliament making the statement must have known, at the time the statement was made, that it was incorrect; and
3. In making the statement, the Member of Parliament intended to mislead the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament.

I will deal with each matter in turn below.

THE STATEMENT MUST HAVE BEEN MISLEADING

On Tuesday 28 October the Member for Glass House rose to make a Ministerial Statement, prior to moving a motion without notice, delaying the debate of the Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025. The Minister stated:

"When I was briefed on the status of the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan, I was shocked to learn that Labor had not reviewed the plan since 2017." "Given the plan's direct relevance to the government's response to the Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025, it would be both practical and appropriate to allow for its completion before proceeding further to ensure the bill is considered alongside the state's Crocodile Management Plan."

The statement made by the Minister is false, and as such, misleading.

Queensland Legislative Assembly	
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MP: Hon Speaker	By Leave <input type="checkbox"/>
Clerk's Signature: 	

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The Queensland Crocodile Management Plan (QCMP) was independently reviewed in 2021 when the (then) Palaszczuk Government commissioned an independent expert review, led by (then) Chief Scientist Hugh Possingham. The following documents to this effect are easily accessible on the Department of Environment's website '*Findings from an Independent Evaluation of the Queensland Estuarine Crocodile Management Plan*,' and '*Department of Environment and Science's Response to the Independent Evaluation of the Queensland Estuarine Crocodile Management Program*.'

Further, on 8 May 2024, I, as the former Minister for Environment, Science, Innovation and Minister for the Great Barrier Reef, held a Crocodile Roundtable meeting of stakeholders in Cairns during which a revised draft Queensland Crocodile Management Plan was discussed and later released for public consultation until 5 June 2024. This draft plan entitled 'Queensland Crocodile Management Plan – Revised draft for consultation' also remains easily accessible on the Department of Environment's website.

As such, I submit that the Ministerial Statement made by the Member for Glasshouse was misleading.

THE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT MAKING THE STATEMENT MUST HAVE KNOWN, AT THE TIME THE STATEMENT WAS MADE, THAT IT WAS INCORRECT

The Member for Glasshouse cannot reasonably claim to be unaware that his statement was incorrect, given the aforementioned information remains publicly available and accessible on the website of his own department, detailing both the period of consultation in 2024 and the independent review commissioned in 2021.

To demonstrate the former government's extensive engagement with reviewing the QCMP in the last term, and further emphasise why the Member for Glasshouse cannot reasonably claim to be unaware of the misleading nature of his statement, I include links below to the documents mentioned above, and additional documents of relevance as follows:

1. A link to the Queensland Government web page detailing the independent committee review and the consultation of the former government's draft QCMP:
[Queensland Crocodile Management Plan review | Environment, land and water | Queensland Government](#)
2. The committee's final report presented to the former government:
https://www.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0021/607134/independent-evaluation-qld-croc-mgmt-program-report.pdf
3. The Department's response to the committee's findings, released in 2022:
https://www.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0022/607135/response-to-independent-evaluation-croc-mgmt-report.pdf
4. Further public information available on the Queensland Government's website regarding two research initiatives conducted in response to the committee's review:
<https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/animals/living-with/crocodiles/crocodile-management/research-initiatives>
5. Finally, the draft QCMP released for consultation in mid-2024:
https://www.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0030/607359/qld-croc-mgmt-plan-revised-draft-consultation-may2024.pdf

Further, the Member for Glasshouse, as detailed above, states that he was "briefed" on the status of the QCMP, and therefore it is incomprehensible that the Member was not made aware of the former public consultation on this issue. It is of further note that the responsible Deputy Director-General, Mr Ben Klasson, who was intricately involved and aware of these consultation processes under the former government remains in the same position under the current government.

IN MAKING THE STATEMENT, THE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT INTENDED TO MISLEAD THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT.

A review of the Record of Proceedings of 28 October 2025 indicates that the Member was reading from a prepared statement, from which it may reasonably be inferred that the material presented had undergone appropriate verification. Further, as outlined earlier, the Member advised that he had been “briefed” on the QCMP.

David McGee stated in Parliamentary Practice in New Zealand: *“But where the member can be assumed to have personal knowledge of the stated facts and made the statement in a situation of some formality (for example, by way of personal explanation), a presumption of an intention to mislead the House will more readily arise.”*

In line with McGee, I submit that the Member deliberately misled the House for the purposes of justifying a procedural motion to delay debate of the Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025 for political gain. His statements were untrue, therefore misleading, and made intentionally and have thus, called the House into disrepute.

CONCLUSION

I submit that the Member for Glasshouse has deliberately misled the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament for the reasons outlined above.

I further submit in my concluding remarks that the Member for Glasshouse is a long-serving Member of Parliament, having served in the House since 2009, holding Ministerial office not just in this current term but also from 2012-2015, as well as holding several Shadow Ministerial roles in former terms of government, and the important position of Leader of Opposition Business in the House, and is therefore presumably acutely aware of his responsibilities under the Standing Orders.

I refer to your recent ruling relating to matters of privilege on 10 June 2025, wherein you stated:

“In looking at whether a matter is serious, I consider matters such as: does the matter seriously impinge upon the rights and powers of the House, committee or members—for example, does the matter seriously misrepresent the record of the House or has the matter unfairly affected the reputation of a member?”

I submit to you that the Member for Glasshouse’s statement unfairly affects the reputation of all former Environment Ministers of the previous two governments, including myself, by asserting there was a failure to meet our responsibilities in the role. I again reiterate that his statement also seriously misrepresents the record of the House.

I therefore request that the Member be referred to the Ethics Committee for its consideration of this matter.

Should you require any further information or any clarification of matters, please do not hesitate to contact me. I thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Leanne Linard MP
Member for Nudgee
Shadow Minister for the Environment, Science, Innovation and Climate Change
Shadow Minister for Youth



Your Ref:

Our Ref: 251112-OUT-Powell

12 November 2025

Hon Andrew Powell MP
Minister for the Environment and Tourism
Minister for Science and Innovation
GPO Box 2454
Brisbane QLD 4001

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

Dear Minister

The Office of the Speaker received correspondence on 3 November 2025 from the Shadow Minister for the Environment, Science, Innovation and Climate Change and Shadow Minister for Youth. The said matter concerns whether you have deliberately misled the House. A copy of this correspondence is attached.

Deliberately misleading the House is listed as an example of behaviour that the House may treat as a contempt (see *Standing Order 266 (2)*).

Standing Order 269 (5) provides that in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, the Speaker may request further information from the person the subject of the allegation. Accordingly, I am writing to you pursuant to that Standing Order.

Standing Order 269 (4) provides that in considering whether the matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, the Speaker shall 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 wish to stress that I have not yet formed a view as to whether this particular allegation should be referred to the Ethics Committee. However, as a matter of course, I remind all members who are the subject of such allegations of the long-established convention that should a Member become aware they have inadvertently misled the House, they should, at the earliest opportunity, correct the record and apologise for their inadvertence.

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Should you wish to provide me with further information to assist me in making a determination as to whether the matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee under *Standing Order 269* please provide your response by COB 26 November 2025.

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

Enc.

Minister for the Environment
and Tourism and Minister for
Science and Innovation

DELIVERING
FOR QUEENSLAND



Queensland
Government

Hon Pat Weir MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
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26 NOV 2025

Dear Speaker

Thank you for your letter of 7 November 2025 concerning correspondence from the Member for Nudgee, dated 3 November 2025, relating to a Matter of Privilege.

The allegation concerns part of my contribution in my Ministerial Statement on Tuesday 28 October 2025. I stated:

"I was shocked to learn that Labor had not reviewed the plan since 2017. The Crocodile Management Plan needed review to ensure that it was fit for purpose, so our government is undertaking a comprehensive review of the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan to ensure it reflects current priorities and better meets the expectations of rural and regional communities."

I stand by my statement to the House, and I strongly reject the Member's claim that I have sought to deliberately mislead the House.

I stated that the Crisafulli Government is undertaking a **comprehensive** review of the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan. My statement around the former government's record was made to contrast their approach with that of the Crisafulli Government. To that end, my statement argued that since 2017, Labor had not undertaken a comprehensive review in the same fashion as the current government.

The Member for Nudgee has provided documents claiming they prove a comprehensive review was conducted. However, that claim does not withstand scrutiny for two reasons.

First, the reviews conducted by the former government into the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan were not comprehensive, and this formed the basis of my statement in the House.

For example, the Independent Evaluation of the Queensland Estuarine Crocodile Management Program by former Minister Scanlon in 2021 clearly states on page 8:

*"During the later stages of the evaluation, the Committee Chair received two requests to consider issues not covered by the Committee's Terms of Reference. The first issue was in relation to making waterways in the vicinity of Tully Heads an Active Removal Zone under the Management Plan, and the second was to consider the adequacy of arrangements during surf lifesaving carnivals. **These issues were deemed out of scope of the evaluation by the Committee Chair and were not considered further by the Committee.**" [emphasis added]*

A reasonable person would conclude that if key issues raised during the process were ruled out of scope, then the terms of reference did not allow for a full and comprehensive review of the management plan. In other words, the committee was limited in what it could examine.

Second, the Member for Nudgee has reinforced my statement by acknowledging that the former government did not complete a comprehensive review that resulted in any change to the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan.

I have reviewed the links provided and note that while over 20 recommendations were presented to the former government, they had ample time to either commit to implement or implement those recommendations into the management plan. They did not.

By contrast, the Crisafulli Government's review is not restricted by narrow terms of reference. It is a genuine, whole-of-plan review, and a revised Queensland Crocodile Management Plan will be presented in line with my statement. A reasonable person would see this as the first truly comprehensive review since 2007.

On this basis, I respectfully ask that the Member's complaint be dismissed.

I believe that in writing to you about this matter, the Member for Nudgee has contravened former Speaker Pitt's advice, issued at the Economics and Governance Committee Budget Estimates meeting on 16 July 2021:

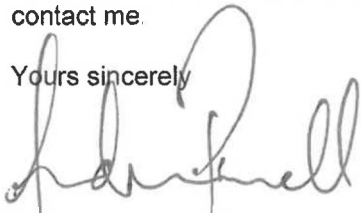
"... I do not believe that frivolous complaints should be rewarded nor should any further attention be made to those which I believe probably are borderline.

"... In terms of how many have been sent to the Ethics Committee, again I make no apologies for those being very limited. I do not believe that, by and large, there are significant breaches of our standing orders. Most of it is by the way of the politics being played out in the democracy."

I submit that the Member's allegations fall entirely within this category. Former Speaker Pitt also ruled that Standing Orders 269(4) and 269(5) are not to be used for matters that are "technical and trivial".

If I can be of any further assistance in determining this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Powell', written over the typed name.

Andrew Powell MP
Minister for the Environment and Tourism
Minister for Science and Innovation