



**New Submission to Inquiry into the use of social media in the Assembly and Members reflecting on the Office of the Speaker**

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Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the use of social media in the Assembly and Members reflecting on the Office of the Speaker

Ms Helen Goddard

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**SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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In response to the terms of reference:

1. Any restriction on the use of hand-held devices by members in the Chamber or elsewhere will, I believe, result in a diminution of the role of members in their democratically elected roles. To have 'tweets' and other information about what is happening is no different to a member of the public sitting in the visitor's gallery watching - but not all of us can be there (especially if we live in the country). People like me rely on such information to inform on what is happening in the Parliament in a timely manner.
2. Preventing public and media using social media in the galleries is a nonsense and will make our State look no better than the old Russian States. Reporting via social media is no different to reporting in the newspaper or other media - it's just instant! If this basic freedom is removed then you remove the public's timely access to information about events in the Parliament.
3. As soon as you formalise actions and make rules around them there are bound to be unintended consequences.
4. The issues surrounding Speakers being offended by comments is old fashioned and not in keeping with society. There should be able to be reflections on the Office without recourse to some punitive action by the Speaker. Again, it's a reflection of a 'nanny State'.

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File1:

File2:

File3: