



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QToN No. PAC-2

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA (Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA (Deputy Chair),  
Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

**Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022–23**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**13 November 2023**

Asked by Mr Peter Cain MLA on Monday, 13 November 2023: Ms Joy Burch MLA, Speaker, took on notice the following question:

[Ref: Hansard Uncorrected Proof Transcript 13 November 2023 pp 6–7]

In relation to: Upgrades to audio-visual equipment in the Chamber

**MR CAIN:** We have received some comments from those watching livestream that, for example, microphones are so sensitive that when someone is coughing it gets picked up, which interrupts what is being understood. You are saying that something like that is not worth addressing?

**Ms Burch:** You are saying if, for example, I just use people in the room—

**MR CAIN:** Someone else, yes.

**Ms Burch:** —Mrs Kikkert is on her feet, and you erupt into a cough, then Mrs Kikkert—

**MR CAIN:** Or other noises, I guess. That is feedback we have received.

**Ms Burch:** Okay. We can take that onboard and see what we can do with the directions or something of the microphones.

**Mr Finlay:** One thing I would just note there is that it is not always the person on their feet speaking that needs information recorded. Sometimes when members interject it is very useful that that material is captured by Hansard, so the Speaker can make reference to it later.

**Ms Burch:** I would disagree with that. I am inclined to stop it completely.

**MR CAIN:** They might start with a cough and then get into interjections. You will take on notice and get back to us on that? Thank you.

**Ms Burch:** I will, Mr Cain.

**Speaker: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:--**

OLA has automated processes and manual procedures in place to ensure active muting of all microphones, in the chamber and in the committee rooms, that are not being spoken into at any given time, with the exception of:

1. the Speaker's microphone which remains active for Hansard audio recording purposes, and
2. the microphone for the member who has the call.

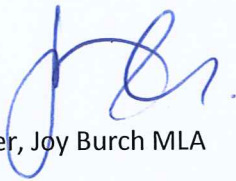
During interjections or when multiple members seek the call of the Speaker, the audio broadcasting system has built-in technology that attempts to reduce noise and volume through each microphone. In certain scenarios, the broadcasting operator will manually mute microphones and control volume input/output levels, however, it is not possible to mute or suppress specific noises.

In the Chamber, members can mute their microphones by pressing the mute buttons installed at their desk. Members cannot mute the microphones in the committee rooms.

OLA can provide some guidelines to remind members and witnesses of the things they should be doing to minimise noises during live broadcasts of Chamber and Committee proceedings.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature:



By the Speaker, Joy Burch MLA

Date: 22 November 2023