

NSW minister caught laughing over Borat mankini during toxins debate

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NSW Planning and Housing Minister Anthony Roberts has been captured laughing over a printed picture of Borat in a mankini during a heated debate in Parliament last week over toxic contamination.



NSW Planning Minister Anthony Roberts was seen holding and laughing at a picture of the character wearing a 'mankini' during question time.

The footage shows Mr Roberts returning to his seat and shrugging while showing the photo to an unidentified frontbencher.

He was caught in the background as Minister for the Environment Gabrielle Upton [defended the state's refusal to ban toxic per- and poly-fluoroalkyl chemicals \[PFAS\]](#), which were used in firefighting foam.

The contamination has been found in 90 communities across the country and has devastated property values in affected areas.



Sacha Baron Cohen's infamous mankini in the film Borat: Cultural Learnings Of America For Make Benefit Glorious Nation Of Kazakhstan; and, inset, Planning Minister Anthony Roberts. Photo: Supplied, AAP

A spokesperson defended the minister's actions, saying that a friend had sent the photo to Mr Roberts as a personal joke.

"He was commenting on how the minister had recently lost weight. His mate sent him that photo saying this is how you will look at the beach, and he showed it to someone on the frontbench."

The spokesperson added the photo was not in response to Ms Upton's answer.

Fairfax Media was unable to identify the person with whom Mr Roberts shared the photo.

Borat is a fictional movie character played by comedian Sacha Baron Cohen in a 2006 mockumentary of the same name.

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/nsw/nsw-minister-caught-laughing-over-borat-mankini-during-toxins-debate-20180629-p4zojq.html>

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/nsw/gabrielle-upton-contradicts-federal-advice-on-ban-of-pfas-chemicals-20180627-p4zo52.html>