



Speech by

Mr L. SPRINGBORG

MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS

Hansard 3 April 2003

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS; SCOTT VOLKERS

Mr SPRINGBORG (Southern Downs—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.26 a.m.): When the former Attorney-General appointed Ms Leanne Clare to be the Director of Public Prosecutions in Queensland, he said the following—

Ms. Clare brings to the position a wealth of experience and legal learnings as well as particular expertise in the handling of prosecutions involving child victims of crime and sexual offences.

Ms Clare and Mr Rutledge were found wanting yesterday when the CMC handed down its report into the handling of the dropping of charges against swim coach Scott Volkers. What it shows is that there has been a litany of mistakes and unsatisfactory performance in the Office of Director of Public Prosecutions. They are not my words; they are the words of the CMC in its report which it handed down with regards to this particular matter. Is it any wonder that the people who raised this issue originally, and who caused the matter to go to a circumstance where charges were laid, feel very upset and disgruntled with this particular process?

The report says that the DPP and the Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions can be justly criticised for the way they went about their task. It also says that the process leading to the decision not to prosecute is unsatisfactory. It also concluded that the DPP is responsible for the decision not to prosecute. Quite clearly, the responsibility for this debacle is in the hands of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions. It is somewhat ironic and wrong that falling out of this particular report by the CMC the only two people who have been held responsible for anything are two police officers who informed the *Courier-Mail* of the fact that Mr Volkers was going to be arrested. They are going to be disciplined. Nobody else is going to be held responsible in any way whatsoever.

Time expired.