



Speech by

Mr L. SPRINGBORG

MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS

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CRIME AND MISCONDUCT COMMISSION REPORT

Mr SPRINGBORG (Southern Downs—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.23 a.m.): On Thursday the Crime and Misconduct Commission reported into the Lockhart River affair. One of the most disturbing things it indicated was that at least five people, including one member of parliament, had provided misleading information, had lied to police or had concealed information from police. Quite frankly, that is not conduct which is good enough for people wishing to hold high office in this state of Queensland.

Is it any wonder that the Premier wanted to move on? Is it any wonder that the Premier said, 'This is over and done with. Let's look forward to the future.'? One of the difficulties the CMC had, notwithstanding the inadequacy of the report, was the substantiation of the matter. I note that the honourable minister herself said that she was totally cleared and exonerated. However, if one reads the report further one sees that it quite clearly says that one of the great difficulties was the word-on-word situation. That was always going to be an extraordinary difficulty for that inquiry.

The other extraordinary thing was the fact that the Premier said in relation to the member for Cook that we should give him a break as he was only in there for 10 minutes. That is an appalling response, because the Premier knows full well that he was a councillor on the Cairns City Council for some four years, actually worked for a minister in his government and has had a long connection with the Labor Party in this state. He knew full well his obligations and what was required of him in terms of integrity.

Once again the Premier has been found wanting with regard to the Queensland Public Service Charter. It states 'we act with integrity, probity and high ethical standards at all times' and 'we nurture a spirit of inquiry and innovation'. Who does it apply to? It applies to doctors, finance officers, cleaners and police officers but also to policy advisers. So what is the Premier going to do to ensure his Public Service Charter is not just more squib words and more spin, that it actually means something—

Time expired.