



Speech by

Jarrod Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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LABOR PARTY

Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (10.25 pm): Just when I thought the Labor Party could not stoop any lower in its negative politicising I discovered I was wrong. Tonight in this House the Minister for Public Works and Information and Communication Technology reflected on me with respect to a federal election campaign in which I was involved in 2001. The surprising aspect is that, for the six months that I have been in this great place, I have heard day by day the government members criticising the *Courier-Mail* for stories it runs. They continually object to questions being raised by the *Courier-Mail* and often question the substance of the media articles. In fact, I even heard it in question time today.

Then tonight we had a minister of the Crown attempting to score a cheap political point by referring to a *Courier-Mail* story that dated back to 2001. It gets better. Not only has the minister relied on the *Courier-Mail* as his source of information; he relies also on the website Crikey—a very trustworthy source of political resources if ever I have heard of any! There is no secret to this story. Honourable members can go online and Google it. The issue that the minister has raised this evening dealt with a federal campaign on the Sunshine Coast back in 2001. I thought it prudent to set the record straight tonight as the minister has used this House to score cheap political points by providing only half a story.

There was a false allegation made during the federal election in 2001 with respect to neighbourhood letters. What occurred from that event was as follows. On the Friday prior to the election I had a phone call from Channel 7 advising that an allegation had been made against me with respect to fraudulently signing a letter on behalf of Ms Anita Rew, who was 19 at the time of the allegation. At the time I was coordinating a neighbourhood letter campaign in support of the federal member. The people requested to sign the letters were locals and members of the Liberal Party or personal friends and supporters of the federal member. One claim was made that Ms Rew, who at the time was a good friend of mine, a work colleague and a member of the Young Liberals, advised the media that she was not, in fact, a member of the Liberal Party and did not sign the letter of support for the federal member.

Upon learning of the allegation and following the media beat-up, I made a statement to the Sunshine Coast police. I point out that I was never personally interviewed by the police; I submitted a written statement to the police and the media. Following the submission of my written statement, the matter progressed no further until 2009, some eight years later, when a minister of the Crown and his thugs were so desperate for a headline, so desperate to make the issue anything but the incompetent Premier and administration that we have in this state, that he had the intelligence to type my name into the Google search engine and find a *Courier-Mail* article contained on a Crikey website.

Mr Fraser interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Treasurer, go back to your seat. When is this government going to start confidently governing this state rather than coming into this place, abusing the processes of the Westminster tradition, all for the sake of scoring some cheap political points?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Treasurer, it will help the orderliness of the House if you want to interject, even though that is disorderly, if you do so from your own seat.