



Speech by

## Lawrence Springborg

MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS

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### ACCOUNTABILITY IN GOVERNMENT

**Mr SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.55 am): The jury is in in Queensland. This is officially the Labor mate state. On the weekend we saw a Galaxy opinion poll that indicated almost two-thirds of the people of Queensland felt that this Labor government was corrupt to the core and absolutely full of cronyism. Indeed, 65 per cent of Queenslanders when asked by the pollsters felt that this Labor government was corrupt to the core and full of cronyism. The other thing that should be of concern to the people of Queensland and particularly those members opposite is that 61 per cent of the Queenslanders who were surveyed felt that the Premier was incapable of fixing the corruption and cronyism in her government. So let us have no more of this nonsense narrative from the Premier that she is honest, open and accountable and capable of getting out there and fixing all of this up.

Let us not forget for one moment that the Premier opposite has sat around the cabinet table each and every day since the Beattie government was elected in 1998. So in the last 11 years and one month this Premier has been a party to every single decision of cabinet in Queensland. This Premier sat around the cabinet table with the likes of Gordon Nuttall, with the likes of Merri Rose, with the likes of Liddy Clark, with the likes of a whole bunch of other Labor mates who have now had to disappear in very, very ignominious fashion. So it is beyond the pale for anyone in Queensland to believe for one moment, and indeed as the poll indicates, that the Premier heard no evil, saw no evil and therefore can speak no evil, when the Premier has been up to her eyeballs in everything that has been going on.

Queensland is absolutely corrupt to the core. Indeed, if anyone wants further confirmation of that we only have to hear what Tony Fitzgerald said the other day. Not only that; I thought it was far more significant when Labor's knight in shining armour, the former Labor Premier Wayne Goss, came out the other day and said that there were some very, very worrying trends indeed in Queensland with the Labor government and that a lot of it is linked to a retreat from the accountability practices which were put in place. But even more concerning is that he said that it relates to longevity in government. So the longer they have been in government the more corrupt indeed they become.

The Premier stood up here this morning and said that her government is leading Australia, that her government is making headlines around Australia. That is certainly the case because I was in Melbourne on the weekend and there were headlines all right in the *Melbourne Age* and in the *Australian* and in every newspaper right across the country about the level of corruption in Queensland and what is happening here. Certainly I think it puts the likes of what is happening in Western Australia, with the likes of Burke and Grill, to shame. Let us look at some of those Labor mates, as the members opposite go out there and say, 'Let us go forward without looking backwards. Let us expunge the past as though it did not happen. Let us just say that we are all absolutely chaste and we go out there and we do absolutely everything right.'

Who remembers Labor leader Keith Wright—a person whom many members over there stood behind and wanted to have elected as Premier of Queensland? He was convicted for paedophilia. Who remembers Bill D'Arcy, the former member for Woodridge—a person whom many members opposite sat alongside in parliament? He was convicted for paedophilia. Who remembers Merri Rose—a person who was convicted for seeking to extort and was sent to jail? There is also Gordon Nuttall, whom many members opposite exonerated in December 2005 and gave glowing character references. They said of

this man that butter would not melt in his mouth. If they had acted then, maybe he would have been in jail earlier, but what they did is exonerate him of suspected criminality.

Who can forget Grant Musgrove, the former member for Springwood, who had to confess to electoral cheating? Who can forget Jim Elder, a former Deputy Premier, having to resign for the same thing? The piece de resistance is Mike Kaiser, the golden haired boy of the Labor Party, having to resign. Where is he now? He sits inside the Premier's office as chief of staff giving advice on electoral probity.