



Speech by

Lawrence Springborg

MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS

Hansard Wednesday, 25 November 2009

MOTION: CRIME AND MISCONDUCT COMMISSION INQUIRY; GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Mr SPRINGBORG (Southern Downs—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (6.13 pm): Is it any wonder that the Attorney-General is having trouble winning appeals? The Attorney-General cannot even read the transcript of what is going on up the road. The transcript absolutely indicates the depth of patronage and looking after of Labor mates that we are seeing here in Queensland. In Tuvalu they might write it down on a slate with a slate pencil or they might resort to a quill and a piece of parchment, but in Queensland we have the availability of modern technology. Fortunately for the Attorney-General I will quote from that modern technology. While he is sitting there in denial, some very interesting things are happening with regard to the CMC. Let us look at what one of the operatives from within the department of sport said yesterday in relation to a special little deal that was done in the member for Sunnybank's electorate with regard to the Warrigal Road matter. As I understand it, that was money for the MacGregor State School as well. This is what this particular witness said—

Well, I knew in terms of the assessment that had been done by my officers that the project did not meet the criteria and therefore we were not satisfied that it should be recommended. So it was not included on our list.

Counsel assisting went on to say—

Did Mr Matheson, who was the acting director-general, explain to you why the application had to be included?

The witness said—

My recollection is that related to where—the location of that project. It was going to be in a new electorate and that new electorate was Sunnybank and it was going to be in the electorate of Judy Spence.

That is at least an iota of evidence that the Attorney-General, the person who has been sent to us from Tuvalu, is not even prepared to acknowledge. There we have some evidence of political interference. It was reported in the transcript today—when the then acting director-general was in the witness box—that the person that Mr Klaassen referred to, Mr Matheson, took an initial set of recommendations to the pair on 23 January but they were changed to a week later. The advice was conveyed by the minister and Mr Tutt. Also, Mr Matheson said Mr Tutt told him that the minister wanted to be able to announce that she was giving the QRU a grant of more than \$4 million for the upgrade of its Ballymore complex. That is pretty substantive evidence.

Again we have a situation where this government did not volunteer this evidence to the CMC. As the member for Moggill has pointed out, this information was dragged out by forensic analysis by the likes of himself and the *Courier-Mail* in Queensland. Again, the government is pretending that it is all chaste and above board, whiter than white, more virginal than a virgin and it did all this itself. It did not. It was dragged kicking and screaming.

That is why the motion moved tonight by the Leader of the Opposition is so important. What we have here is just the tip of the iceberg. We need to get to the bottom of what is happening with grants and mateship. In Queensland we have a pandemic of amnesia from government members opposite and an epidemic of favouritism for Labor mates that is permeating through the grants process in Queensland. It is not until something actually finds its way through to the CMC because of some very courageous

whistleblower informant who often loses their job that there is an inquiry. It is not put there by the Premier or anyone else. Then it starts to scratch the surface of the whole cancerous regime.

In the time left to me I want to correct one thing. We have heard a whole lot of nonsense in this place about the Connolly-Ryan inquiry. What we have not heard from honourable members opposite is that which actually motivated the Carruthers inquiry into the so-called MOU in Townsville with the Queensland Police Union. Do members know what the first piece of evidence was that the Connolly-Ryan inquiry found when it opened? It found a piece of secret legal advice that had been tucked away in the safe of the CJC that actually exonerated Russell Cooper and Rob Borbidge and that had been written by Cedric Hampson QC. Those opposite do not want to talk about that. That was being hidden so they could set up—

(Time expired)