



Speech by

**Michael Crandon**

**MEMBER FOR COOMERA**

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## **INTEGRITY BILL AND COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY (CORRUPTION, CRONYISM AND UNETHICAL BEHAVIOUR) AMENDMENT BILL**

**Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (5.00 pm): I rise to contribute to the cognate debate encompassing the Integrity Bill 2009 and the Commissions of Inquiry (Corruption, Cronyism and Unethical Behaviour) Amendment Bill 2009. I note that the Leader of the Opposition and member for Surfers Paradise in his second reading speech on the Commissions of Inquiry (Corruption, Cronyism and Unethical Behaviour) Amendment Bill 2009 said, 'If passed, the bill will establish a comprehensive and independent commission of inquiry into 11 years of Labor corruption, cronyism and unethical behaviour'. The Leader of the Opposition went on to say—

The only way to properly investigate suspected cronyism, corruption and the unethical behaviour of the Labor government is to have a commission of inquiry that has the powers, resources and mandate to perform such a function.

On the other hand, the Premier says that there is no need because the CMC can do it. But we all know the CMC has limited powers. The CMC needs an expansion of its powers to properly look at these issues if it is to review these matters. This is confirmation that the Leader of the Opposition's position is the right one. This is confirmation that the Premier's position is wrong. More evidence comes when the Premier introduced this bill and stated—

I present a bill for an act to provide for an integrity commissioner, to facilitate the giving of advice to ministers and others on ethics or integrity issues, to establish a register of lobbyists and provide appropriate limitations on the contact between lobbyists and government representatives, including by providing for a code of conduct ...

It seems to me that we are saying the same thing. The Premier admits the need for this. All the government has to do now is come on board. The only way to resolve this to the full extent is to agree with the full implementation of the bill presented to this House by the opposition leader.

The bill presented by the Premier talks about the future. It talks about integrity in the future. She says that from here on in we will stay on top of it. The Premier is saying, 'Let's forget what happened in the past. Let's skirt around those issues.' There is a problem with that approach. The people of Queensland want to see the past fully scrutinised by a body with the power to fully scrutinise all aspects of cronyism from the past, to fully scrutinise the corruption from the past and to fully scrutinise the unethical behaviour from the past.

I must say that some in my electorate have from time to time spoken to me about their observations. I must also admit that I have wondered about this from time to time from incidents that I have witnessed. These issues and incidents may be completely innocent, but they do cause one to raise an eyebrow. I speak of incidents where, for example, a member from the government side spends virtually all of their time with one member of the community at a community cabinet meeting. Now, that may be normal practice. I have only attended one community cabinet. In the case I refer to, the individual was not a constituent of the member. The observation was that the member did not assist constituents from their own electorate to present to the minister. They were left to their own devices. It is a bit of a worry, is it not, when a member is looking after someone else's constituents in their dealings but ignores their own constituents in their dealings? They were left to their own devices. This may be common practice. This may be the

standard way of doing things. It just seemed strange to me and others who have spoken to me about it. Why spend your time with someone from another electorate? Why introduce and be involved in a conversation with a ministerial adviser with that person? That is the sort of thing that could be scrutinised—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr Kilburn:** Go for it! It is being scrutinised now. Do something about it.

**Mr CRANDON:** I will take the interjections. We will do something about it. Let us all do something about it together. Let us vote to bring both of these bills in. Let us vote for both of them so that we can properly scrutinise these things.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr CRANDON:** I will take all of those interjections; thank you very much for your input. These may be common practices. This may be the standard way for these matters to be dealt with, but it does seem strange to me. Why spend time with someone from another electorate?

**Mr Moorhead** interjected.

**Mr CRANDON:** The member for Waterford thinks that that is quite reasonable. That is the sort of thing—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr CRANDON:** Bring it on. Put all of this cynicism on the record. That is the whole point of this bill that we are trying to get through. The whole point of this bill is that you people see it for what it is. The reality is that the people of Queensland—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms van Litsenburg): Order! I ask the member to direct his comments through the chair.

**Mr CRANDON:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. We see the cynicism that comes from the other side of the House. They do not see anything wrong with this issue. They do not see any problem with the last 11 years. They do not see any problem with people going to jail because of corruption. What we are looking for now is a strengthening of that power by calling a royal commission so that we can really get stuck into this. We hear the cynicism from the other side when it comes to this. They know what has been going on.

The example I gave is the sort of thing that some could regard as potential cronyism. I will make another observation. When one sees a member entertaining an individual who, once again, is not a constituent of the member's electorate and others make the same observation and come to a member and comment on the matter, I have no answer. Once again, it could be totally innocent. Once again, though, it has the potential to be seen as cronyism and unethical behaviour.

We are talking about cronyism and unethical behaviour and those opposite are laughing about it. Those on that side of the House think it is funny. It could be seen as unethical behaviour if that individual or companies associated with that individual gain some benefit from the government of the day. Only time will tell whether or not those sorts of things will come to pass. We can refer back to this speech and refer back to these issues if that does come to pass.

That is the sort of thing that these two bills will find the answers to. The bill introduced by the Premier on its own will not answer the questions from the past. However, by combining it with the bill introduced by the Leader of the Opposition, issues from both the past and in the future will be covered. I urge all government members to support both bills or forever be labelled as wanting to hide the corruption, cronyism and unethical behaviour that has been part of this government for the past 11 years.