




Speech By  
**Annastacia Palaszczuk**

**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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**MOTION: REFERRAL TO THE PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND MISCONDUCT COMMITTEE**

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.55 am): The opposition will be supporting the motion. The parliament is charged with the responsibility for overseeing the CMC and it performs this important task through the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee, the PCMC. The PCMC has been meeting exhaustively since the first revelations came to light. The chair of the PCMC came before the House this afternoon to advise of the action that the committee was to take. I thank the chair of the committee for providing that comprehensive update, not only this afternoon but also in the early hours of the morning.

The Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Commissioner is to undertake a thorough and independent investigation focusing on the release of the documents. He will investigate the extent of the knowledge and roles of the CMC officers in relation to the reclassification and subsequent release of the documents and the shredding of documents. This should include the governance and accountability mechanisms within the CMC to prevent this from ever occurring again. The Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Commissioner is the appropriate person to investigate these matters. That is the role of the commissioner. That is why we have an independent person of the highest calibre to carry out this function.

I now address the current situation involving the unauthorised release of sensitive documents. It is clear that there is a problem that needs to be addressed. It is clear we need to consider swift action if people's wellbeing or personal safety is at risk. It is clear we need a detailed explanation from the CMC chair, Ross Martin, about the circumstances that led us to be engaged in this debate tonight. We deserve to know what went wrong and how it can be stopped from ever happening again in our state.

The people of Queensland deserve a clear explanation if we are to maintain confidence in the process of our corruption watchdog. As I said previously, this inquiry will now be a public inquiry. There may be issues that are raised that are extremely sensitive in nature and I thank the Attorney-General for giving the assurance that they will be treated in that manner. However, I do want to reiterate my earlier comments: tonight we are not the judge and jury of the chair of the CMC. The Attorney does need to be very careful in his language in this House when the public inquiry has not yet begun. The comments he made pre-empted this motion in the House. This needs to be an open and transparent process. People's reputations are at stake. They need to be questioned and, if wrongdoing is found, at the end the day then actions will be considered. The committee now has the opportunity to examine this in detail and report back to the House. I asked the Attorney earlier that if there were matters that came to light that involved an extension, that that issue would come back to the parliament. I do not recall anything like this happening in my lifetime, where such confidential documents have been released in the public domain. The government has acted swiftly, but we need to ensure an open, transparent process so that those recommendations can come back to the parliament and the parliament can determine the course of action to ensure that this never happens again.