



Speech By  
**Annastacia Palaszczuk**

**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 November 2013

**MOTION: PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND MISCONDUCT COMMITTEE**



**Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.10 am): I move—

That all words after 'House' be deleted and replaced with 'conduct a full public independent judicial inquiry into the truthfulness of the statements made by the acting chair of the CMC, Dr Ken Levy, to the PCMC'.

I cannot believe what we have seen from the executive, from this parliament today in this House. Let me start from early morning when we saw the Attorney-General come into this House and allege bias against members of this House. At the time I raised a point of order. I was very concerned that this Attorney-General would raise issues on which the chair of the CMC had publicly stated that all members should refrain from comment. Why was I concerned that this Attorney-General had made those comments? It was very clear because of the two public documents that had been tabled—one was from the acting chair and one was from Philip Nase. I quote from Philip Nase's letter in which he clearly says—

The caller was a Mr Lee Anderson. He said he had been speaking to the AG and had a thought to pass on to Ken.

The Attorney-General is mentioned as a participant in relation to matters that could be perceived to have been before the PCMC.

**Mr Bleijie:** Why didn't they call me as a witness?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We do not know if you were called as a witness. I do not know. We do not know because the hearings were conducted in private. If we want to talk in this House about an alleged perception of bias—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr Seeney** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order, members! Deputy Premier, I would ask you to cease your interjections. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** If we want to talk about alleged perception of bias, I put it to the House that the Attorney-General is alleged to be biased by raising issues in which he is directly implicated by letters from the committee, from Philip Nase. What we are seeing in this House this evening is nothing less than a cover-up from an executive that wants to run and hide. I have listened in all seriousness tonight—

**Mr Bleijie:** No, you haven't.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Yes, I have—to what the independent chair of the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee has said. In response to the motion moved by the Attorney-General, the chair has raised concerns about the content of that motion. She herself has raised concerns. Earlier this evening we saw the chair of the PCMC table documents in this House. I have had a brief chance to peruse some of those documents. These documents speak for themselves. These documents finally reveal to Queenslanders the truth.

**Mr Seeney:** Why didn't you table all of them?

**Mr Bleijie:** They have been tabled, Deputy Premier.

**Mr Seeney:** Why didn't you table all of the transcripts?

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am not on the committee.

**Madam SPEAKER:** I will pause the clock. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Over the last hour we have seen a parade of the senior executive leadership team running in and out of the Premier's office. We saw the Deputy Premier going in. We saw the Treasurer going in. We saw the Attorney-General going in. We saw the Leader of the House going in. They were running in and out of the Premier's office, 'What do we do? What do we do?' It was crisis meeting at the helm.

Queenslanders have every right to be concerned because what these documents reveal is that the acting chair of the CMC has given contradictory evidence to the PCMC.

**Mr Seeney:** No, you are judging him already. You have not heard his side of the story.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am stating facts. I am making statements of fact.

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** If we want to talk about allegations, you have done nothing but attack the independence of the CMC since you came into government. It is absolutely disgraceful.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, I ask you to direct your comments through the chair. I also ask members on my left and my right to cease their interjections. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I recall earlier this year when we had the matters before the committee about the shredding of Fitzgerald documents, and what did we hear from the Attorney-General? 'Ross Martin must face the committee. Ross Martin must be brought to justice.' That is what the Attorney-General did. The Attorney-General of the state did not act as the first law officer. You went after Ross Martin and you hounded him. That is what you did. That is exactly what you did as Attorney-General and you are an absolute disgrace.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, I ask you to address your comments through the chair.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Secondly, what did the Attorney-General do? He said everything needs to be open and public. There is nothing more open and nothing more public than to have a full independent—

**Mr Pitt:** Public inquiry.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:**—public judicial inquiry. This is a cover-up that goes to the heart of the Premier's office.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, resume your seat. I will start warning members under the standing orders if they do not pay attention to the chair. Your interjections are not being taken and they are interjections at cross purposes. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** This is the biggest cover-up I have ever witnessed in the Queensland parliament. The executive's statements are completely contradictory in terms of the way they treated Ross Martin as chair of the CMC compared with the way they are now treating the Acting Chair of the CMC, Ken Levy. These documents speak for themselves. What we saw with the motion moved previously by this Attorney-General was that the Attorney-General obviously did not want these documents to see the light of day.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No, this is a cover-up. These documents show clearly that Dr Levy, the Acting Chair of the CMC, went up to the Premier's office, went up to level 15, to the Premier's office, to be prepped for his interview with Des Houghton and got his riding instructions. These are the facts. Every member of the executive should hang their head in shame.

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** You should hang your head in shame. Why did the Premier not come forward—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Mr Seeney** interjected.

**Mr Pitt** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Why did the Premier not come forward and say that Lee Anderson had—

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order! Leader of the Opposition, take your seat. Deputy Premier and Leader of Opposition Business, I warn you both under standing order 253A and I call the Leader of the Opposition.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Also in these documents there are allegations that phone calls were made, from memory, from the Attorney-General's office. What did the Attorney-General know? This is why we need a full public judicial inquiry. It involves the Attorney-General's office. It involves the Premier's office. I want to know what did the Attorney-General know and when?

What did the Premier know; where and when? What did the Deputy Premier know; where and when? These are matters that go to the heart of how our democracy is run in this state. If the motion had been previously passed to silence the members of the PCMC, Queenslanders would have been left in the dark and every member of this House would have been left in the dark, and no-one would have been wiser. Not one person would have been wiser.

Queenslanders are waking up to the truth, and the truth is a stark reality. Dr Levy was appointed for a further seven months with no advertisement, yet the Treasurer who sits opposite over here can appoint an under-Treasurer after a worldwide search that leads straight back to his office, where he appoints someone within one week. How can it take 14 months to appoint a chair of the CMC, one of the most important positions in this state with its independence and integrity? This is the person who is supposed to be dealing with these outlaw motorcycle gangs, the person who is supposed to be looking at misconduct, the person who is supposed to be the guardian of integrity in this state. How can Queenslanders continue to have confidence in this government if you continue to allow him to continue in this situation?

The only resolution that members can definitely vote on tonight is for a full independent judicial inquiry. I implore all members: if you believe in fairness and integrity, if you want to get to the heart of the matter, if you want to allow procedural fairness and if you want to ensure that there are no allegations of bias, the only way is to have a former judge conduct a judicial inquiry into this matter. This is nothing less than a cover-up. The Attorney-General has a lot of explaining to do and the Premier has a lot of explaining to do, because Lee Anderson was involved and the documents also imply that his chief of staff, Ben Myers, also knew about it as well. This is what is alleged in these transcripts. No wonder they are all sitting there with their heads in their laps. No wonder they are not looking and they do not want to hear about it. This is absolutely shameful! This is shameful, and it is disgraceful that we are debating this at 2.30 in the morning of the last sitting week of the Queensland parliament. We can all remember how we ended the last sitting week of last year. That was not very good, but this is far worse.

These public transcripts speak thousands of words. Queenslanders will now know the truth, and the real test about the integrity of this House, the integrity of the government and the integrity for the rest of Queensland is: will this government act? Will this government act and say, 'We are going to get to the bottom of it. We are going to have a full, independent judicial inquiry.' I will not accept anything less, and I will go out there every single day until the next election until you commit to a full, independent judicial inquiry.