




Speech By  
**Hon. Jarrod Bleijie**

**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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**PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND MISCONDUCT COMMITTEE: REPORT, MOTION  
TO TAKE NOTE**

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (11.49 am): I can understand why the member for South Brisbane said what she said, because she has such a link to the CMC. I need not remind members that during the 2012 state election campaign the member for South Brisbane used the CMC as a political football, so I can understand why the member for South Brisbane—

**Ms TRAD:** I rise to a point of order. I find that lie offensive and I ask it to be withdrawn.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): Order! I ask the Attorney if he would withdraw.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Prior to withdrawal, I make the point to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, that the member for South Brisbane—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I think it would help—

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I withdraw. The member for South Brisbane was the deputy state secretary of the Australian Labor Party Queensland division. The Queensland division of the Labor Party made complaints to the CMC during the election campaign. I suggest that the member for South Brisbane knew all about it.

**Ms TRAD:** I rise to a point of order. That is untrue and that is offensive and I ask it to be withdrawn.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, was the member not the deputy state secretary of the Labor Party?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I am struggling to understand what part of it the member for South Brisbane finds offensive.

**Ms TRAD:** The Attorney-General has asserted that the ALP made complaints during the last state election to the CMC, and it did not.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I do not believe that that is a personal imputation.

**Ms TRAD:** No, no.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Attorney-General has—

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Sorry; is there a further point of order?

**Ms TRAD:** It is a personal imputation and I ask it to be withdrawn. It is offensive.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have ruled that I do not believe that was a personal imputation, from what I heard, in terms of yourself personally.

**Ms TRAD:** Mr Deputy Speaker, with all due respect, what he has said—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the Attorney to take his seat.

**Ms TRAD:** His statement is because I was an office holder and because the organisation made complaints—which it did not—I have been using the CMC. That is untrue and I ask for it to be withdrawn because it is offensive.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for South Brisbane, I did not hear in terms of the personal imputations and I have made a ruling on that. If there are further statements that are made that you find offensive, then I will take your points of order. The Attorney-General has the call.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I submit to you that the member for South Brisbane has made certain personal reflections on your good standing today in this House.

I hit a nerve with the member for South Brisbane. I hit a nerve, because when we talk about the CMC the member for South Brisbane knows all too well about the CMC. She comes into this place and defends the indefensible on the CMC former chair's own admission. The member for South Brisbane comes in here and defends the indefensible. You cannot keep doing what the member for South Brisbane does. I would have thought that, if anything, the Callinan and Aroney report that I tabled today and the PCMC report that we are debating would have shed some light for the Labor Party on the inner workings of the CMC. But it has not—because the Labor Party thinks the CMC should be a body not accountable to anyone, not accountable to the people of Queensland, only accountable to Labor Party political tactics. We on this side of the House do not believe that. We believe in an independent, strong watchdog. These reforms that we are noting from the PCMC and that the Hon. Ian Callinan has suggested will ensure that Queensland has the best and the most independent and accountable crime-fighting watchdog in this state. In due course the government will officially respond to the recommendations in this report. We will also respond to the Callinan report.

I want to quote what the opposition leader said at the time I moved the motion in this House for the PCMC to look at this issue. The member for South Brisbane is taking very much personal offence today at the suggestion that the CMC should not be above reproach—personal objection. But her own leader said in this House—

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 ... about the circumstances that led us to be engaged in this debate tonight.

Her leader further said—

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.

I would like to say that it was me who said that—it was very similar to what I said—but it was not. It was the Leader of the Opposition! The member for South Brisbane's boss said those comments. But the member for South Brisbane in her contribution today has basically rejected the submission from her own Leader of the Labor Party, and we know why. We know why the member for South Brisbane is doing that: she has ambitions, she has ambitions to fulfil that role.

I have made some pretty clear statements both in here and in the public domain: one, the LNP wants an independent, strong watchdog; two, we will work very well and closely with the PCMC. If I did not have confidence in the PCMC, I would not have moved a motion in this House giving it all the power to conduct a public inquiry—the first, as I understand it, that has been done in this House, in this instance by the PCMC. I thank the Independent chair, Liz Cunningham, for the work that she did and the tireless hours she and other committee members put in to that report. If anything, we have shown, as I have said all along, that opening up the PCMC to this sort of public debate was great and a great part of democracy has been displayed in the last six weeks. I look forward now to working with the PCMC as we look at reforming this organisation to ensure that it is a modern, crime-fighting organisation in Queensland but that is accountable once and for all to the people of Queensland.

*(Time expired)*