




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

Record of Proceedings, 21 November 2013

MOTION: DRISCOLL, MR SN, FINDING OF CONTEMPT AND FINE

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Leader of the House) (11.22 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That this House—

- (1) notes the Ethics Committee report No. 139, tabled in the House on 19 November 2013, which reported to the House that Mr Scott Driscoll has committed a contempt of parliament on 49 occasions and recommended that Mr Driscoll be charged with those contempts by the House;
- (2) notes that Mr Scott Driscoll's response to the charges of contempt given from the bar of the House by his counsel today in response to a summons of this House on 19 November 2013;
- (3) in accordance with the provisions of chapter 3, part 2 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, finds Mr Scott Driscoll, a former member of this House, guilty of 49 instances of contempt of parliament for failing to disclose interests in the Register of Members' Interests and Register of Related Persons' Interests pursuant to clauses 7(2)(b), 7(2)(o), 7(2)(p), and 7(2)(m) of schedule 2 of the standing orders and for deliberately misleading the House, as particularised in the summons dated 19 November 2013;
- (4) in accordance with the provisions of chapter 3, part 2 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, fines Mr Scott Driscoll \$1,000 for each of the four instances of contempt associated with his failure to register his wife's appointment and cessation as director and secretary of the Australian Small Business Coalition and orders that the sum of \$4,000 be paid by 30 June 2014;
- (5) in accordance with the provisions of chapter 3, part 2 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, fines Mr Scott Driscoll \$2,000 for each of the 42 instances of contempt associated with his failure to register interests associated with Mr Driscoll's and his wife's roles in the Queensland Retail Traders and Shopkeepers Association; the conflict of interest caused by their involvement with the Regional Community Association Moreton Bay; and income received both directly from the Regional Community Association Moreton Bay and through Norsefire Pty Ltd from the Regional Community Association Moreton Bay and the Queensland Retail Traders and Shopkeepers Association; and orders that the sum of \$84,000 be paid by 30 June 2014;
- (6) in accordance with the provisions of chapter 3, part 2 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, fines Mr Scott Driscoll \$2,000 for deliberately misleading the House on 19 March 2013 and orders that sum to be paid by 30 June 2014;
- (7) notes that subsequent to the tabling of Ethics Committee report No. 139 Mr Scott Driscoll resigned as a member of the Legislative Assembly on 19 November 2013;
- (8) endorses the Ethics Committee's finding that the cumulative effect of Mr Scott Driscoll's failure to register interests and his deliberately misleading the House is conduct which is not fitting of a member of this House and conduct which would warrant expulsion from the Legislative Assembly;
- (9) orders that by virtue of the above findings of contempt Mr Scott Driscoll has forthwith forfeited any entitlements he might have had as a former member entering on the parliamentary precinct; and
- (10) directs that the Clerk ensure a copy of this order signed by the Speaker and the Clerk is served personally on Mr Scott Driscoll within 14 days.

In moving this motion, I find that Mr Driscoll's explanation provided to the House today does not discharge his gross and negligent behaviour. The parliamentary Ethics Committee fully, completely and appropriately investigated all matters in relation to Mr Driscoll's behaviour as the member for Redcliffe and in a bipartisan fashion has made recommendations that I believe are totally appropriate and well considered in relation to this matter before the House.

May I congratulate the chairman of that committee, Mr Michael Crandon, the member for Coomera, on his fearless and forthright deliberations in this enormously unusual matter. I believe the recommendation that he has made in relation to expulsion of the member would be the first in 144 years from this parliament. The reputation and authority of Parliament House must be of the highest calibre and any member who sullies that reputation by wrongful behaviour brings all members and this House into disrepute.

In this case, I believe the behaviour of the former member is up there with the worst behaviour ever seen in representing a Queensland electorate, and the Ethics Committee recommendations in total were exactly and entirely appropriate. I commend this motion to the House.