



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszcuk**


**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 October 2014

## **MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

### **Crime and Corruption Commission; Newman LNP Government, Performance**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.01 am): This government is still not listening. This government, led by Campbell Newman and the LNP, is not listening and it is not listening to Queenslanders. After the Stafford by-election on 19 July, the Premier promised that there would be bipartisan support for the newly appointed chair of the CCC. For 18 months Queenslanders have had an acting chair. They have had a hand-picked person running the anticorruption watchdog in this state. This government has learnt nothing from the appointment process of the Chief Justice to now the appointment process of the chair of the new anticorruption watchdog in this state. We found out about the proposal in the paper. Today we also heard the Premier confirm who the government's proposal is for the new chair of the CCC. This government, this Attorney-General and this Premier have learnt nothing from the botched selection process of the Chief Justice to now the botched process of the new chair of the CCC.

Bipartisanship—let us talk about the convention of the bipartisan nature of this appointment. It is where the Premier of the day talks to the Leader of the Opposition. That is bipartisanship. If we want to talk about how cabinet operates in a bipartisan manner, the cabinet would make a proposal and it would then consult with either the Leader of the Opposition or the committee confidentially and then it would go back to cabinet for endorsement and a public announcement. That is the way a transparent and accountable government operates. Those opposite have learnt nothing and now we are once again seeing a botched appointment process. The government had the opportunity to get this right. The government had the opportunity to sit down and sort this out in a dignified manner. But, no! We saw the chair of the committee come out and do two separate press conferences yesterday—what about the confidentiality of the committee?—and today the Premier has come out and confirmed who the government's proposed nominee is.

**Mrs Scott:** Disgraceful!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Yes, member for Woodridge, it is a disgrace. It is a botched process. This government has learnt nothing.

I am also pleased to advise the House, the Premier and probably more importantly the Treasurer and the Deputy Premier that Kate Jones has been endorsed as the Labor candidate for the seat of Ashgrove at the next election. Kate is out there today campaigning. She told me last night that she would be out there doorknocking today listening to the people of Ashgrove. That is what the people of this state of Queensland want. They want their members to be out there listening. This government has failed them. It has failed them and it is still not listening. Whilst talking about Ashgrove, I have also been quite alarmed over the last week or two to once again see the deep divisions embedded in the LNP. For the last two weeks those in the LNP have been tearing themselves apart over the seat of Moggill. I dare ask: is it because they have all given up on Campbell Newman, the Premier, in Ashgrove? There was a very interesting and good interview

conducted by Matt Wordsworth on the *7.30 Report*. I am quite sure all honourable members watched that interview with great interest, and I want to quote from that interview. The member for Moggill was being interviewed and he said—

They've now given up on Campbell Newman and the battle is on to see who replaces him after probably after the next election.

Matt Wordsworth says—

Hang on; you think that they don't believe Campbell Newman can win Ashgrove?

Dr Bruce Flegg, the member for Moggill, who is not the candidate at the next election, says—

I am certain that the LNP do not believe Campbell Newman can win Ashgrove.

What we have seen is instability in the LNP over the last two weeks. If you cannot govern yourselves, how can you govern Queensland? If we talk about governing Queensland, let us talk about asset sales. What we heard today in question time were statements that have been put clearly out of the mouths of the Treasurer and the Premier that confirm that a lease is an asset sale, pure and simple. What did the Premier say? In the past the Premier has said that a lease is like selling the silverware. What did the Treasurer say? The Treasurer said that a lease is like selling the farm. So we have the Premier saying that he wants to sell the silverware and we have the Treasurer saying that he is selling the farm, and then we also heard the quotes out of the mouth of the Deputy Premier. What was it, member for Bundamba? It was—

**Mrs Miller:** Dishonest and sneaky.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Dishonest and sneaky; sneaky and dishonest and a con. If this government was listening to Queenslanders and if this government had a shred of integrity—we know it has no shred of integrity when it comes to accountability and transparency—it would know that Queenslanders do not want their assets sold, pure and simple. How do we know that? We know it because after the last election we were reduced to seven members and now because we have been listening to the community we have been able to gain two extra members—the member for Redcliffe and the member for Stafford. If you sell the assets, electricity prices will rise. That has been the evidence in other states. If you sell assets, jobs will go. Queenslanders are suffering. Queenslanders want safe and secure jobs. What have we seen under this government? Let us go back to the past. Let us go back to two years ago when we saw the sacking of Public Service workers. Also, we have seen the massive cuts to service delivery right across this state—cuts in health, cuts in education. Queenslanders deserve the best from their government and what they are getting from this government is second rate.

What we saw last week was the secret fundraiser from the LNP. They want to talk about openness and transparency. It was a \$5,000-a-plate fundraiser—\$5,000. But it was all secret. The media questioned the Deputy Premier. They asked him very clearly, 'Deputy Premier, are you going to the fundraiser tonight?' 'Yes, I am.' 'Where is it?' 'I don't know.' 'Deputy Premier, where is that coalmine in Central Queensland?' 'I don't know.' 'Deputy Premier, have you checked those documents yet?' 'Oh, I don't know what's in those documents.' What an embarrassment! But what is even more embarrassing—in fact, Queenslanders will be very upset to know this—is that no-one knows who attended that fundraiser and not one of those donations will be declared to the Electoral Commission. It is a half-a-million-dollar slush fund raised in one night. This is a cashed-up LNP machine. They are cashing up a massive war chest in the lead-up to the next state election. We have put in place our accountability and transparency policy. We will definitely ensure that donations over \$1,000 are sent to the Electoral Commission and this government will not.

In summary, Labor will continue to listen. Labor will not sell your assets. The LNP will sell your assets.

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** They may laugh, but I say to them to go out to their electorates and start listening. I do not think they should be laughing. They should take those smiles off their faces, because this is a very serious matter. It is a very serious matter for all Queenslanders. It is about time that this government stopped being arrogant, stopped being out of touch and started listening.

*(Time expired)*