




Speech By
Hon. Jarrod Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 13 February 2014

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENTS

Palmer United Party

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (2.40 pm): I rise to express my dismay at the Palmer and Pete show—starring Clive Palmer and Peter Wellington. Talk about a circus on the Sunshine Coast. I note the federal member for Fairfax, Clive Palmer, yesterday made the unbelievable claim that now that he is a politician he no longer cares about his Coolum golf resort. This is the resort in the heart of his electorate where yet another 90 staff have just been laid off. It is an appalling statement from the man elected to represent the people of Fairfax. Caring is the very least they would expect from their federal member.

The Hyatt Regency resort was an internationally renowned tourism drawcard for the Sunshine Coast and a major economic driver in the electorate of Fairfax, employing more than 600 staff. That is until it was taken over by Mr Palmer. Since Palmer moved in, hundreds of people have lost their jobs, tourists have fled, the business community is fuming and, on top of that, the Sunshine Coast lost the PGA golf championship, which we successfully hosted for 11 years. It was reported that the PGA of Australia and Palmer had several disagreements over sponsorship and signage issues leading up to and during the 2012 tournament, but Mr Palmer could not care less. He is too busy trying to convince Queenslanders that, despite not being able to run a golf course, he deserves a shot at running Queensland and Australia. He even rolled out a TV ad spruiking that Alex Douglas will be the next Premier of Queensland. No wonder he has kicked off the sales pitch early—Mr Douglas's respect for everyday Australians is even lower than Mr Palmer's. Need I remind the House of leaked emails last year in which Mr Douglas described Australians as a bunch of 'bogans'. This is how the member for Gaven and the Palmer party see the people whose votes he is now chasing. If he expects Queenslanders to roll out the welcome mat, then clearly he was serious when he wrote that Australians 'rejoice in their ignorance'.

Let us not forget the other part of the puppetry—that is of course the member for Nicklin, Peter Wellington. Mr Wellington claims Clive Palmer speaks a lot of sense. It is a shame the same cannot be said for the member for Nicklin himself, Queensland's own parliamentary criminal gang sympathiser. Last month he was rubbing shoulders with criminal gangs in protest of laws designed to make Queensland a safer place. This week he declared a lack of faith in our Police Service. Who knows what is next from this political flip-flopper. I hope he has left room on his sleeve for his Palmer party patches.

In Mr Wellington the people of Nicklin have a community leader who publicly condones the violence, drugs and other crimes of gangs that have prospered for too long in Queensland. I note that it was reported on the *Brisbane Times* today that he was a 'professional thorn in my side'. Unfortunately for the member for Nicklin, there is nothing professional about him. This was best illustrated by his disgraceful performance where he caused a traffic accident on Nicklin Way in Kawana because he could not ride a motorbike properly. In Clive Palmer's time on the coast he has

cost us a prestigious golf tournament—which was a major tourism driver—driven a bustling resort into the ground and left hundreds of people jobless. Where is the tourist mecca he promised? Tacky plastic dinosaurs and an overpriced car exhibit—that is Palmer’s legacy in Fairfax. It is time to call curtains on the Palmer and Pete show.