




Speech By  
**Hon. Jarrod Bleijie**

**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 May 2014

**MOTION: MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA**

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (12.46 pm): I can understand why the Leader of the Opposition and those members of the opposition who have spoken today want to slide this matter under the carpet. What frustrates me and what is questionable in this debate is how this is somehow the government's diversion. Usually when one wants to divert something they create the diversion. We did not make these comments. The member for Bundamba made these comments two days ago. It may be the member for Bundamba's diversion, from what I do not know.

I refer to a newspaper article today and the comments from the Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies spokesman Jason Steinberg. He stated—

... condemned the original comments, saying they were "not acceptable" to either Jewish or wider community.

"Any reference to concentration camps and the Nazi regime in this kind of context is totally inappropriate," he said.

"Concentration camps housed six million Jews, Gypsies and homosexuals to be led to their slaughter."

They are comments from the Jewish Board of Deputies. We have afforded the member for Bundamba the opportunity to come in here today and wholeheartedly apologise. As the Hon. Minister for Natural Resources indicated, the member for Bundamba was on 4BC this morning. Mr Condren on 4BC gave the member for Bundamba a whole host of opportunities to apologise and she refused to apologise. She kept digging and digging which is concerning because it means she believes what she said two days ago. She cannot come into this place and accept the fact that she got it wrong and that she has insulted millions of people. She cannot accept that fact. Those opposite have to come in here and defend her. The honourable thing for the opposition leader to have done today would have been to make her member apologise to the people of Queensland and make her member apologise for the comments she made.

I wish to address one of the issues the opposition leader raised in the personal attack on the Premier. She referred to the Premier's comment in the House yesterday about bogans in Logan. Hansard reflects yesterday's question time when that issue was raised. The member for Gaven, the leader of the PUP party, called his own constituents bogans. That was never meant to be made public but of course it was made public. The Premier and the Treasurer were interjecting at the time because they were the comments made at the time by the member for Gaven. The member for Gaven was the one saying that his constituents were bogans. So I reject entirely what the opposition leader said about the Premier's comments because, if you read it in the context to which the fiery debate was happening yesterday, it was clear that the Premier was referring to interjections between the member for Gaven, the Premier and the Treasurer. So that was wrong.

How is this anyone else's issue today other than the member for Bundamba's? I know the opposition leader has tried to bring in all these things. I find it completely astonishing that the member for South Brisbane of all people would come in here and talk about family attacks because the Deputy Premier raised the issue of the opposition leader's father. We did not raise the issue of Mr Henry Palaszczuk as an attack on Mr Henry Palaszczuk. We were congratulating Mr Palaszczuk. There was no attack on an individual. There was no attack on a family member. We were congratulating Mr Palaszczuk. That is what the Deputy Premier was doing this morning and also in his contribution to this debate.

I think we are seeing sinister things at play here. As I indicated this morning, they have form in this regard. They have form with the union associations. I have talked to the member for Gregory about this and he has told me about the thuggery, the fear and the intimidation of unions on these mine sites right around Queensland. We are trying to create communities, positive family communities in these environments. Families were run out of town by the unions.

**Mr Costigan:** Standover tactics.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Standover tactics—they were run out of town. What I find objectionable as well, getting over the fact that the member for Bundamba still has not apologised—it is now nearly 1 pm and she still has not apologised for the offence that she has caused—is that she sends the leader of her party in here to defend her, defending the indefensible.

The opposition leader talks about staff members. I understand that the member for Bundamba has a staff member working for her—and I am not sure if this is his real name—Steve Axe from Twitter, the 'DaAxeman'. I understand—I will be corrected if I am wrong—that he works for the member for Bundamba. He has been tweeting today. In light of all this debate we have been having, he has been tweeting today. He took a snapshot of the honourable Premier—

**Mr Stevens:** In the parliament?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** A photo of the honourable Premier in parliament gesturing to members over there like we do from time to time and now calling the Premier a Nazi because he raised his hand in parliament. They should hang their head in shame. The opposition leader should hang her head in shame. I table a copy of that.

*Tabled paper:* Photograph of the Premier posted on twitter [\[5171\]](#).

If she is going to talk about staff members, then what I want clarified is: does this member with this Twitter account work for the opposition leader? Does he work for the member for Bundamba? If so, then he should be sacked by the end of the day by the Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition should show leadership.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): Order! Members will cease interjecting.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The Leader of the Opposition has to show leadership on this issue. It is unjustifiable for her to walk into this place and defend the actions of the member for Bundamba. Those actions cannot be defended. As I said earlier today, the member for Bundamba has been a strong supporter of the ETU in Queensland—the Electrical Trades Union, who know all about thuggery and intimidation on sites. Here is the article where the ETU were calling all sorts of people Hitler and Nazi. We then have, as I said, a staff member—I suspect he works for the member for Bundamba—indicating Nazi and Hitler against the Premier, which I tabled a photo of. So we have a pattern here: the ETU, supported by the member for Bundamba, and a photo being tweeted from someone who works in the member for Bundamba's office. But it gets worse.

I am now going to table a photograph of the honourable opposition leader some time ago where she proudly displays on her Facebook site a little gathering of the ETU and the opposition leader at Parliament House. So let's draw the lines again—an ad about Nazi Germany, a staff member of the opposition tweeting a photo about Nazi Germany, the opposition leader associating with the people who are paying for those types of terrible ads which were condemned by the Jewish community at the time. Not only that; we then have on the balcony Mrs Jo-Ann Miller—and I will table a photograph of this—getting a happy snap with CFMEU and ETU members. These are the unions that are preaching this rot in our communities, backed up by the member for Bundamba, backed up by the member for Bundamba two days ago by saying mining camps are concentration camps in Queensland. I table copies of those two photos.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of photographs [\[5172\]](#).

I have one more example. Just recently the ETU was forced to apologise because they put out an ad with Tony Abbott and the line 'the Abbott crimes' and dressed him as a Nazi. We have a serious pattern here of Labor Party fear, intimidation and union connections. We know why now Bill Shorten is trying to distance the Labor Party from the union connections. It came to a stumbling block, I read, last week. Do honourable members know what the stumbling block was? The Queensland division of the Labor Party. That is who is stopping this disassociation with the unions. I remember the former member for Keppel, Mr Hoolihan, saying some time ago that the Labor Party is the political arm of the union movement. He said that. They keep condoning this rot that they keep running in our communities.

*Tabled paper:* Article from [www.smh.com.au](http://www.smh.com.au), dated 9 May 2014, titled 'Union apologies for Tony Abbott 'Nazi' portrayal' [\[5173\]](#).

It is time for the opposition leader to stand up today and not only apologise but force her member to apologise, and if the member cannot apologise she should resign. People in concentration camps were starved, they were whipped and they were lucky to survive. Six million people around the world died because of these concentration camps. We have seen a complete lack of understanding of the issue from the opposition leader and a complete lack of leadership. This is the opportunity for the opposition leader to stand up for Queenslanders, to stand against this rot that the unions and the member for Bundamba keep peddling in our communities. I say to the opposition leader: draw a line in the sand today and show leadership.