




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszcuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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ELECTORAL AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (8.17 pm): I rise to speak on the Electoral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015. When we went to the last election campaign, we went on a very firm platform of restoring integrity and accountability to government in this state. After the Stafford by-election it was very clear that the people in Stafford voted for integrity and accountability. At the last election Queenslanders gave a very clear signal that they wanted integrity and accountability restored back into this state.

Over the last three years under the LNP integrity and accountability were torn up, and they have to be responsible for what happened. You only have to look at the track record of what happened during that time. They attacked the independence of the judiciary; they watered down the independence of the state's anti-corruption watchdog; they allowed long-term appointments of temporary anti-corruption commissioners; and they increased the threshold for disclosing political donations from \$1,000 to \$12,400.

That is a disgrace. That is perhaps the thing people out in the electorate realised they did not want their government to do. That means that thousands and thousands of dollars were hidden from the public eye. To this day we still do not know how much money was actually raised by the LNP—all those secret donations that were brushed under the carpet. Well, no more. I said very clearly that the first piece of legislation my government would introduce would be to restore integrity and accountability and lower those thresholds back to \$1,000, and that is what we are doing tonight.

For the life of me I cannot understand why this opposition has learned absolutely nothing. Why has this opposition refused, even until now, to support this fundamental change to the way electoral donations are declared?

A government member: The same LNP.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection. It is the same LNP. Nothing has changed. They have learned nothing from their mistakes. They all have their heads hanging down. They know very clearly—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Nanango can talk! She featured quite prominently on the billboard. Where did it get her? Back over to the other side of the House.

Those opposite talk about some inconsistency, yet the LNP government in New South Wales will also have a \$1,000 threshold. Mike Baird accepts the \$1,000 threshold. If it is good enough for the LNP Premier of New South Wales, why is it not good enough for members of this opposition?

I also mention that the judicial pension for the chair of the CCC is in line with the policy we took to the last election. We need to make sure we have a top-class person in that position. A judicial pension will ensure we attract quality candidates from right across Australia to fill that important role.

There is another role I would like to fill tonight—that is, the chair of the parliamentary committee that oversees the anti-corruption watchdog in this state. We could resolve that issue tonight. This afternoon I contacted the Leader of the Opposition and said, 'Let's resolve it tonight.' In terms of who will be the chair of that committee, there has to be bipartisan support. That means that I have to agree and the Leader of the Opposition has to agree. There are two other LNP members on that committee: the member for Warrego and the member for Toowoomba North. Tonight I give my tick to either of those two members to become the chair.

A government member: An endorsement.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I give my endorsement tonight, on behalf of my government. Let us resolve the issue. I would even accept the member for Nanango as the chair!

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I would accept the member for Coomera! I would accept the member for Beaudesert! I would accept the member for Lockyer! I would accept the member for Chatsworth! He gets my tick. The member for Mount Ommaney could do the job! Let the Leader of the Opposition just pick one of them and they can do the job. We can resolve this issue tonight, but those opposite do not want to resolve it because they want to keep playing politics. They want to continue the stalemate. It is about time they woke up, smelled the roses and realised that they are in the opposition and we are in government. Integrity and accountability are absolutely fundamental to the way a government acts. Over the last three years they tore up the rule book on integrity and accountability. Tonight Queenslanders say, 'No more.'

In conclusion, I agree with the member for Dalrymple that the voter ID laws definitely have to be changed. It is absolutely disgraceful that people have to show proof of identity to vote in a general election. It is an absolute disgrace that those opposite went down that path. Tonight we are voting for good government. Tonight we are voting for decent government. Tonight we are voting for integrity and accountability in government—things the LNP under Campbell Newman failed absolutely miserably to provide.