




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 16 September 2015

MOTION

Ethics Committee

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (6.21 pm): I must say with some trepidation that I am always nervous following the big guns of the Labor government, so I will try my best on this important motion that we are debating tonight. Let us deal with the Deputy Premier's contribution to this debate tonight.

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Are you on the list, education minister? Put yourself on the list.

We heard the Deputy Premier speak about the integrity of the system and report dates. I say to the Deputy Premier, that if she wants to know about report dates, I am quite sure that if she looks back at *Hansard* this week she will see that the Labor government actually referred a matter to the finance committee with a report date. Believe it or not, the Labor Party put a report date for a committee to come back to the House, so I reject the argument from the Deputy Premier—

Mr Springborg: No!

Mr BLEIJIE: Believe it or not, opposition leader! The Deputy Premier was referring to matters which occurred some time ago when she said that the former government came in here and sacked the PCCC because she was on it at the time. Let us just remind the Deputy Premier of exactly what happened on that particular night because the Deputy Premier talks about the principles of natural justice. The reason that those events took place that night was because the now Deputy Premier was serving on a committee investigating a Queenslander, and she had gone out and tweeted that he was essentially guilty before the committee had handed down its report. So the Deputy Premier cannot come in here and say that this motion is about prejudging an individual who is subject to an ethics investigation, because the Deputy Premier did exactly that in 2013. That is why those events took place that night, so do not try and change history. Do not try and change what happened on that night: let the record show it.

The other thing that I want to speak about is the importance of this motion. Obviously I am not going to talk about the substantive matter before the committee, but there is an important matter where a member of the House has been referred to that committee. I have had concerns for many years, and they are on the public record, that one is under a cloud when they are the subject of an investigation.

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, the education minister is continually disrupting the proceedings of this House.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Thank you, member for Kawana. Member for Ashgrove, your interjection is not being taken. I would urge you to hold your counsel and allow the member for Kawana to make his contribution without interruptions. That reflects on everyone.

Mr BLEIJIE: The motion that we are debating tonight is particularly important for the member who is subjected to the investigation. Without going into the substance of the investigation, it is important to note that the matter we are referring to was in fact referred to the committee not by the opposition but by Labor government members. This is an important matter. As I have stated on the record many times, people who are subjected to these investigations have a cloud hanging over their heads and there should be some certainty to the process.

One matter that is still before the Ethics Committees—and again I will not comment on the subject matter, but suffice to say the individual concerned is Dr Ken Levy—is still the subject of investigation, and I expressed concern about that years ago in terms of the time that these matters take. I have expressed concern about police investigations, and I will in the future express concerns about the member for Pumicestone if his investigation takes a long time. This motion is asking parliament to put a report backdate for the committee for certainty. That is a matter for public certainty and the integrity of the institution and also for the member for Bundamba. It concerns her just as much as anyone else to have the matter finalised. That is why it is important that everyone in the House supports this important motion today.

On many occasions we have heard people in this House talk about the hallmark of our democracy and the integrity of our institutions. The Ethics Committee is a committee of this House and this parliament probably could direct it. But we are not asking for a direction; we are simply asking for a report-back date as a matter of fairness. It does not matter who is referred to any committee of this House; a report-back date should apply to all members of this House. All members of this House should be given the fairness and dignity of having the matter sorted out and not having these clouds of uncertainty hanging over their heads. I would extend that to the member for Bundamba as I would anyone else in this House. It serves the interests of justice, integrity and accountability to have this—

(Time expired)