



Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 10 November 2015

MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry

Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (11.53 am): I rise to raise the issue of Michael Byrne QC and his political report on the Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry that was handed down after months and months of speculation, months and months of secret hearings, no openness or transparency despite Michael Byrne QC saying at the outset of the commission of inquiry, 'Oh yes, I intend to hold open hearings.'

Mr Cramp interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the member in terms of the farcical nature of this inquiry. This inquiry report has been handed down and we are to believe everything in it without anything being tested—no evidence being tested, no open hearings. The accusations against our hardworking men and women in our Police Service are unwarranted and unfounded. What we have seen from this is a complete lack of support from the police minister for the men and women who wear blue in this state.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. Where was the Minister for Police? Where has the Minister for Police been for the last five days?

Mrs MILLER: I rise to a point of order.

Mr BLEIJIE: The minister has been silent.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Member for Kawana! What is your point of order, Minister?

Mrs MILLER: I find the words of the member for Kawana personally offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: The minister finds your words offensive. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. I have found it absurd and interesting that the police minister has not held a press conference or made a statement in support of the men and women in Task Force Argos or Task Force Maxima, who deal every day with the issues facing children in this state, criminal motorcycle gang members—

Mrs MILLER: I rise to a point of order.

Mr BLEIJIE: The police minister—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Kawana. Minister, what is your point of order?

Mrs MILLER: The comments being made by the member for Kawana are untrue, they are misleading, I find them personally offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I ask that the member for Kawana to withdraw the comments.

Mr BLEIJIE: I will withdraw, but I seek your clarification, Madam Deputy Speaker. A member of the House makes a statement that the police minister has not held a press conference supporting the police men and women in the state—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order. The minister has asked you to withdraw your comments. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. The police in this state hold this police minister in contempt. Morale in the Police Service is at an all-time low. I travel around the state talking to grassroots men and women who put their lives on the line every day. They know that they do not have a police minister who stands up for them. They know they do not have a police minister who backs them.

Mrs MILLER: I rise to a point of order.

Mr BLEIJIE: They know that they have a police minister who could not care less about the men and women in blue in this state.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Order! One moment. Point of order, Minister, please?

Mrs MILLER: I find the comments of the member for Kawana untrue, misleading and personally offensive, and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you have been asked to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. I will give the police minister a break for 30 seconds; I will go to the education minister. The education minister also has contempt for the men and women in blue in the Police Service. Once Michael Byrne's report was handed down, the education minister said—

We feared all along that just looking at bikies could lead to other types of organised crime flourishing and now we have it in black and white.

That was the education minister. That forced the acting Commissioner of Police, in an unprecedented move, standing next to the police minister, the Attorney-General and the Premier, to condemn the report and say that crime has not flourished, child exploitation has not flourished and the men and women, the grassroots officers in blue, are protecting the kids and they always have. He said that the sex offenders did not flourish because of resourcing, a re-resourcing or a change of resources. The assistant commissioner, the acting Commissioner of Police at the time, said in an article by Steve Wardill—

A terse Acting Commissioner Ross Barnett yesterday revealed police had increased resources to hunt down child-sex predators since their bikie crackdown began.

...

One of Queensland's top cops has slapped down claims pedophilia has been allowed to flourish as the State Government announced it would allocate \$3.2 million to address the problem.

We have the acting Commissioner of Police forced to go out there and stand next to the Premier at a press conference and defend the police in the state, yet the police minister stands next to the acting commissioner and says nothing; she stays silent.

Mrs MILLER: I rise to a point of order.

Mr BLEIJIE: The acting Police Commissioner has to do it.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of order, member for Kawana. Minister?

Mrs MILLER: I find the comments of the member for Kawana to be personally offensive and I ask them to be withdrawn. I also would request, Madam Deputy Speaker, that the member for Kawana desist from verballing the acting Commissioner of Police.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member has found offence. Member for Kawana, I ask that you withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. Let me quote the acting Commissioner of Police, Mr Ross Barnett, in an article titled 'Premier denies police rift'. The acting Police Commissioner states in that article—

"I don't accept there was any reduction in effort in the area of child protection," he told ABC radio yesterday.

That is not a verbal; that is a quote. I table a copy of that article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 4 November 2015, titled 'Premier denies police rift' [[1594](#)].

The police minister is agitated today because she knows that what I am saying is the truth. She knows what I am saying is what grassroots men and women on the ground are saying about the police minister.

Mrs MILLER: I rise to a point of order. The member for Kawana is continuously misleading this House. I consider his comments in relation to me as police minister to be untrue and personally offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn again.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Order! Member for Kawana, the minister has raised a point of order. She has taken offence; I ask that you withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I will, Madam Deputy Speaker, but I rise to a point of order. Under the standing orders I seek clarification in terms of frivolous interjections. I ask for a ruling in terms of the minister's continuous frivolous interjections

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take advice on that. Member for Kawana, resume your seat. Member for Kawana, if you would like to resume. The minister has found your comments to be personally offensive.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I ask that you continue.

Mr BLEIJIE: While in government the LNP gave \$360 million to the Police Service to put an extra 1,100 police men and women on the beat, and when we left government we had delivered 800 out of that 1,100. I know that the police minister is now handing in the homework for the extra police officers on the beat. In terms of tackling criminal gangs, we gave \$20 million to the Police Service and the CCC to tackle criminal gang members, and I find it frustrating and I take offence at Labor members, through this commission report, saying that the police dropped the ball in terms of dealing with child exploitation. As shadow minister, I will back our police in this state. I will back the men and women who every day put their lives on the line. I will back the work that they do in Task Force Argos. I will back Task Force Maxima. I will back the assistant commissioner for police. Every day of the week I will back the work of our men and women in blue, because everyone knows that the police minister certainly does not back them.