




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 11 November 2015

MOTION

Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (6.21 pm): I support the motion moved by the member for Mansfield and spoken to quite positively by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I support it because this is about transparency, openness and accountability—accountability of the highest order. One would expect accountability and openness in this parliament, in this great place that we serve our constituents. One would also expect openness and transparency in a royal commission. Not too many royal commissions across Australia have been held in such secret, private circumstances. The commissioner, Mr Byrne QC, said at the outset that he intended to hold open hearings. Did conversations take place between the government and Mr Byrne? Did they tell him to silence the commission? Where is the evidence? Where is the testing of the evidence? How do we know who appeared before the commission?

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr BLEIJIE: We do not know, because the government did not let anything out. It was held in silence.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, a point of order.

Mr BLEIJIE: Nothing happened.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, one moment.

Mrs D'ATH: I find the comments of the member for Kawana personally offensive and he should withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I did not refer to the member.

Mr STEVENS: Mr Speaker, on the point of order, there was no personal reflection. The member referred to the government.

Mr BLEIJIE: I did not refer to the member by her title.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Mr Speaker, on the point of order, questions were raised about whether the government sought to influence the commissioner. It is quite clear that the first law officer, the Attorney-General, would be the first person engaged in such a relationship. While the member for Kawana may have used the general term 'government', the implication of his insult and offence is clear and I understand why the member for Redcliffe, the Attorney-General, takes offence.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order. My ruling is that there was not a specific reference to the Attorney-General.

Mr BLEIJIE: This commission of inquiry handed down its report a couple of weeks ago. As the shadow Attorney-General said, there were no open hearings and no debate about it. Earlier the Attorney-General stood up and outlined the CV of Mr Michael Byrne QC. I acknowledge that he has

great respect within the legal community. One thing she left off his CV is that he was the chair of Greyhound Racing Queensland. One thing she left off his CV was that they ended up sacking the board and having a separate royal commission into greyhound racing in Queensland.

We saw the police minister stand up in this place. Yesterday I asked, 'Where is the police minister? Nothing to see here. No support for our police,' and today she ran down to the Gold Coast, in the electorate of Surfers Paradise, to hold a press conference—to show that she is out there supporting the troops. I can give the minister the feedback I got from her trip this morning. They certainly were not saying the things the minister was just telling this House. I can tell the police minister what the grassroots members she met this morning said to me about her.

The police minister has the hide to stand up here and talk about things being mute. We have not heard a lot from the police minister in the two weeks since this report was handed down. We have heard no support from the police minister for police men and women in this state, but today she ran down to the Gold Coast to talk about body worn cameras and so forth. With the allegations made this morning by the honourable member for Mount Ommaney, about which she is writing to the Speaker, the police minister will have to walk around wearing her own body worn camera—to make sure the offences she possibly commits are captured, to protect honourable members in this House on that most serious matter.

The police minister also talked about the ice epidemic. The royal commission report talked about the huge ice epidemic. It also stated that criminal motorcycle gang members represent such a small proportion of organised crime, yet ice is such an epidemic—and the police minister just talked about it. She cannot have it both ways. She cannot rely on a little bit of the report, pick and choose another piece of the report and then say that bikies have nothing to do with crime in Queensland, yet they bear the major responsibility for the ice epidemic in the state of Queensland. The government cannot have it both ways. The Attorney-General said on 612ABC on 2 November—

Yes, the report is very scathing because it talks about the focus in legislation ... in the outlaw motorcycle gangs when in fact the criminal activities made up only 0.52 per cent of the crimes in this state.

In an article in the *Courier-Mail* dated Wednesday, 4 November Mark Lauchs says—

... we should be careful about statistics. The QOCCI report criticised sending resources to Taskforce Maxima because bikies only commit 0.5 per cent of offences. But they are only 0.0001% of the population and are, therefore, offending at 50 times the average rate.

A criminal motorcycle gang member offends against the people of this state at 50 times the average rate of a Queensland citizen, yet the government takes a blinkered approach: 'Nothing to see here.' It is just like this royal commission. It has a closed-door attitude: 'Nothing to see here.' There is no discussion—end of story. Yet we are to rely on this government to protect our citizens?

I laugh at the Attorney-General and at the police minister when they stand in this place saying, 'We are doing everything we can against criminal gang members. We are doing everything we can to protect the citizens of this state.' They have sat on their hands for nine months. They have done nothing but roll out the red carpet to criminal gang members in this state.