




Speech By
John-Paul Langbroek
MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

Record of Proceedings, 11 November 2015

MOTION

Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (6.10 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the shadow Attorney-General, which provides the government with an opportunity to show how open and transparent they truly are. I want to refute what the Attorney-General said in her speech when she suggested that we are casting aspersions on Michael Byrne QC. On behalf of the shadow Attorney-General and those on this side of the House, I want to reiterate that what we are concerned about is the government's political use of this report, and that is what we have expressed in this motion.

The Attorney-General also suggests if we had read all 600 pages of the report we would not have come to mistaken conclusions and that therefore some aspects of this motion should be rejected. The bottom line is that those four members—the Attorney-General, the Premier, the Minister for Education and the Minister for Child Safety—have all supposedly read the report and come up with the politicisation of it which we saw in the media two weekends ago. Once it was made clear to them that their reflections on the report did not reflect the information it contained, they hastily ran away. Yesterday morning I said that it was Acting Commissioner Ross Barnett who pointed out that the conclusions they had made over that weekend, which were clearly a politicisation, were ones that he rejected on behalf of the Police Service. They also reflected on the ability of the Police Service to do things about paedophilia and fraud, when it was obvious from the extra resources that had been given to the police by the former LNP government that the focus on organised crime did not lead to increasing issues in other areas.

The shadow Attorney-General has very clearly made the point that no-one on our side is asking for information that is deemed by the commission or Crown Law to be either confidential or information that could compromise the operational abilities of state and federal law enforcement agencies. I refute what the Attorney says in her gross generalisations, which are typical of the politicisation that we have seen by this government. The point is that this Premier promised to lead a government of consensus and consultation, but all we have seen—as we saw today in question time—is a government that values politics over policy and spin over substance. They try to get on the six o'clock news to 'rub out' the main issues of the day that Queenslanders really want them to focus on. They will say and do anything to achieve their goal which, as we know, is to repeal and replace the criminal gang laws that were implemented by the former LNP government.

Taxpayers have paid approximately \$3 million for a report that is being used by this government to do nothing more than roll out the red carpet to criminal gangs in this state—people with no regard for the law, the police, or innocent Queenslanders who are caught in the crossfire. Nowhere is that better exemplified than my city of the Gold Coast and the very tragic shooting of policeman Damien Leeding. People were caught up in crossfire at Robina shopping centre, shot on the streets outside Kurrawa Surf

Club and found dead on Hooker Boulevard, yet former ministers Paul Lucas and Neil Roberts said there were no problems at the Gold Coast. After we came into government and that incident happened in September 2013 we knew that something had to be done, but we made sure that the police were provided with the resources that they needed and we supported them unequivocally. The education minister should apologise to the hardworking Queensland men and women in blue for her outrageous slur against the work that they do to keep Queenslanders safe from harm. She 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. This is the second major fail by the former government when it comes to protecting our children after the botched implementation of the child abuse reporting system in September 2013.

What a shameless attempt to politicise not just the OneSchool reporting system but also the organised crime inquiry report. We have heard the experts from QUT say that we should be very careful about statistics, but it is obvious that this motion should be supported in the interests of integrity and accountability. I commend the motion to the House.