




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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MOTION

Trade Unions

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (6.01 pm): I move—

That this House:

1. expresses its concern over the influence of unelected trade union officials upon this government;
2. notes particularly the interim report of the Royal Commission into Trade Union Governance and Corruption handed down on 15 December 2014;
3. notes that the CFMEU and its officials have been adversely mentioned in that report;
4. notes that Mr Michael Ravbar, Queensland State Secretary of the CFMEU, remains a member of the ALP national executive, and that the CFMEU remains affiliated with the Australian Labor Party (Queensland Branch); and
5. calls on the government to desist from meeting with any unions or trade union officials who are currently under investigation by the Royal Commission into Trade Union Governance and Corruption until its final report has been released and all investigations into alleged criminal behaviour by trade union officials have been finalised.

There can be no doubt that the trade union movement has a disproportionate level of influence over this stumbling, bumbling Palaszczuk Labor government. We have had United Voice proudly proclaiming its MPs in parliament, a clear demonstration of ownership, published in a tweet—I will table it for the House—on 25 March. It shows the member for Capalaba, the member for Springwood, the member for Mount Coot-tha, who just spoke, the member for Barron River, the member for Mundingburra, the member for Thuringowa and the member for Pine Rivers. It was all about ‘our MPs’.

Mr Pyne: What about me? I pay my dues too.

Mr LANGBROEK: The member for Cairns is not in the photo. The point is that it is claiming that they are their MPs and they will basically do whatever they want them to do.

Mr Crandon: And they do!

Mr LANGBROEK: And they do. There is no doubt about that from the decisions that we see and the style in which those opposite operate. We saw it from the Minister for Health. It is the unions style to come in here and make false claims. It turns out that the claims are someone else’s fault, of course, but then there is no apology. A few moments ago we saw it from the member for Bundamba, the Minister for Police: a grudging apology that she had to be dragged kicking and screaming to make to the member for Mount Ommaney for what she did the day before yesterday in the parliament. I am happy to table the United Voice team photo from Craig Crawford.

Tabled paper: Photograph, dated 24 March, of the member for Capalaba, Mr Don Brown MP; the member for Springwood, Mr Mick de Brenni MP; the member for Mr Coot-tha, Dr Steven Miles MP; the member for Barron River, Mr Craig Crawford MP; the member for Mundingburra, Ms Coralee O’Rourke MP; the member for Thuringowa, Mr Aaron Harper MP; and the member for Pine Rivers, Ms Nikki Boyd MP, shared on Facebook by the member for Barron River, Mr Craig Crawford MP [\[1657\]](#).

When I was the Minister for Education and Training, the union was out there creating concern for people who were teacher aides, cleaners and admin officials. They were scaremongering that people would be losing their jobs and that we would not be abiding by the award they had signed up to. That is what they did in staff rooms in schools across the state. In the short term they may well think they have been successful. But this side stands up for decent, honest behaviour and making sure that we communicate decently with the people of Queensland. That is what we are committed to doing.

We have seen major levels of intrusion of unions into senior ministerial offices. We have tried to expose that. That has been refused. The reason that we have not been able to expose it is that there are simply too many examples. The Information Commissioner said the police minister's office—the office of the trouble-prone member for Bundamba—handled as many as 1,000 documents relating to unions during her first four months in the role and producing them for the opposition would be unreasonable because there were so many. One can only imagine what was in the documents. Riding instructions? Advice on her portfolio? Whatever it is, it does not matter because she is not getting any better. As we have seen again this week, the member for Bundamba is in another disaster. We see the charming member for Ferny Grove opposite—another union thug. What we see is a troubling level of influence from a range of organisations that have been shown to have a questionable moral code. What we heard from the Premier a couple of sitting weeks ago is that one bad apple does not prove that there is a problem. We see from the royal commission, in Sydney at the moment and Canberra and Brisbane before that, is a style throughout the unions where hardworking union people put up their money and people like those opposite rise to the top of the tree simply because they take advantage of the contributions of hardworking trade union members. We saw the former official who acknowledged that he destroyed seven tonnes of documents requested by the royal commission. Dave Hanna confirmed he had covered a security camera and helped back a horse trailer up to the door so the details of the dirty deals could be dumped. It is outrageous. It is not only the disgraced CFMEU pulling the reins, we have the Treasurer, who is in the chamber now, beholden to the Plumbers Union. He has done things to get their support. It is not the people of Queensland who win; it is the unions.