




Speech By
Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

Record of Proceedings, 19 May 2015

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (12.08 pm): On this side of the chamber this morning we were somewhat surprised because for a change there were no personal explanations—a bit rare at the moment. I would like to reroll the videotape and compare and contrast the first 100 days of the Palaszczuk government with what we on this side of the chamber actually did. It is time to rewind the tape and go back to 13 March when an original complaint was sent from the member for Cook's partner on tax evasion issues, crime history and a lack of child maintenance. That was back on 13 March. On 18 March the Premier said that she immediately referred victim complaints to the ALP state secretary, Mr Evan Moorhead, and that he told the victim to go to the police.

Rolling the tape forward, on Friday, 20 March at 4.36 pm the member for Mount Ommaney, the shadow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander minister, received an email from the alleged victim detailing domestic violence complaints, tax avoidance and no child support payments. The email shows it was sent to four other female politicians including the Queensland Minister for Women and Child Safety, Shannon Fentiman, and the housing minister, Leeanne Enoch. On Tuesday, the 24th, the Premier, the opposition leader and the member for Mount Ommaney all attended the Salvation Army domestic violence appeal breakfast. The member for Mount Ommaney returned an email urging the alleged victim to immediately go to the police and also outlined various assistance measures. Then parliament sat for the very first day and there was the swearing-in of members. There was the traditional Aboriginal ceremony attended by the member for Cook and the Minister for Housing and Public Works. In a highly unusual step, the member for South Brisbane took the swearing-in ceremony to the chair of the member for Cook.

In a Channel 7 interview on Sunday, 29 March, the Premier revealed her Deputy Premier had met with the member for Cook on Tuesday night, which was Tuesday, 24 March, about child support allegations. There was a direct quote from the Premier, 'I said is there anything else I need to know? He looked us both in the eye and said, "No, there is not."' On Wednesday, 25 March there was the Governor's address and the garden party. There was a series of victim emails sent back to Tarnya Smith, the member for Mount Ommaney, thanking her for responding and noting that she was the only woman to do so. Stirling Hinchliffe, the member for Sandgate, asked the Leader of Opposition Business to get a pair for the member for Cook so he could have eye surgery. It goes on and on and on.

On 26 March there was a confidence vote in parliament. At that stage, the member for Cook came into the chamber just as the bells started to ring—not a really auspicious way to start one's parliamentary career. In the interests of time, I am going to hit the fast-forward button. On 27 March the first question time was held. The *Courier-Mail* reported that the member for Cook has not paid child support. He made a personal explanation saying that he will fix it and rectify his tax affairs immediately. It goes on—28 March, 29 March—and on and on, all centred around the member for

Cook and the government not governing in the best interests of the people of Queensland. It was not so much about jobs, jobs, jobs but about protecting the member for Cook.

Moving forward, on 23 April, *A Current Affair* ran a story on the ex-partner of the member for Cook detailing alleged abuse and domestic violence. It goes on. On 24 April 'Only the LNP have helped me,' stated the member for Cook's former partner. It goes on and on and on. On 1 May another former partner alleged that the member for Cook owes a further amount for child support. If it was only centred on the member for Cook it would be farcical, but it goes on and on and on. We then move from the member for Cook on 6 May to the member for Pumicestone in relation to allegedly misleading the House. Yet again there is another member allegedly misleading the House.

Then we move on to 6 May, in the same sitting of parliament, to the member for Mirani, the chair of the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee, who attacked the mining industry in Queensland, saying that no mine has the right to mine—pure genius! On 7 May—and we are only working our way through the first 100 days of the Palaszczuk government on the videotape. The Premier then got up on 7 May and was an apologist for the member for Mirani and tried to build bridges with the mining industry. The mines minister had to clean up the mess created by the member for Mirani, which only highlights the lack of trust in the member for Mirani.

What have we really got on the highlights tape so far? Lots of personal explanations, but we also have what looks like a takeaway menu; we have Labor reviews, committee task forces and commissions. There are about 39 here, but we ran out of ink on the Bubble Jet. I believe it is now up to about 43 or so new committees of review. That is not exactly a very auspicious start for the first 100 days of the Palaszczuk government.