



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 18 February 2016

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Ethics Committee Report**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (2.56 pm): Isn't it a truism that the LNP leopard's spots never change? What we saw in Queensland between 2012 and 2015 was three years of bullying and intimidation of the people of Queensland. That is exactly what we have this afternoon. We have every member opposite not defending the member for Warrego, not defending the Leader of the Opposition and not defending the Leader of the Opposition's chief of staff—central to the misleading of two parliamentary committees, deeply involved in a very significant parliamentary incident resulting in the admonition of a member of parliament for the first time in 17 years. Not one of them sought to defend their weak leader. What we have, of course, is members of the opposition seeking to silence other members of parliament by contending that they are unable to come into the parliament and put a matter before the House that is extremely significant.

Those opposite all want us to be quiet. I will not be quiet. I will not be silenced by the member for Hinchinbrook, the member for Callide or the member for Kawana, the worst attorney-general in living memory. I will not be silenced by those men who presided over the bullying and the behaviour that sought to silence Queensland.

A very significant matter is before the House and before the people—a report of the parliament in which the Leader of the Opposition's chief of staff was central to conduct to a conspiracy to mislead. They all worked together. The poor member for Warrego was left out to dry by her leader and his chief of staff.

Where is the Leader of the Opposition on this? We have had the opposition condemning the media. They have been asking for a response from the Leader of the Opposition. Typical of the Leader of the Opposition when the going gets tough, he has been silent. He has said nothing about the grubby conduct of his chief of staff which is central to this whole matter. I will not be silenced by those opposite who seek to silence Queensland.

There was a unanimous report. The member for Redlands, the member for Noosa and the member for Cleveland as members of the opposition unanimously had the courage of their convictions to condemn one of their own because of her improper conduct. But now the time—

**Mr ELMES:** I rise to a point of order. I find it offensive that the Minister for Health would involve my name in the way he is misquoting from that report, and I would ask him to withdraw.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): I do not recall that your name was mentioned. It was mentioned; I beg your pardon. I ask the minister to withdraw.

**Mr DICK:** I withdraw. It was a unanimous report of the committee.

**Ms Bates:** Unreservedly!

**Mr DICK:** It was a unanimous report—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I ask the minister to unreservedly withdraw.

**Mr DICK:** I withdraw, but the report speaks for itself.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I ask the minister to unreservedly withdraw.

**Mr DICK:** I unreservedly withdraw.

**Dr ROBINSON:** I rise to a point of order. I find the member's comments offensive and I ask that he also withdraw them.

**Mr DICK:** I have withdrawn, Madam Deputy Speaker, so I understand one does not have to continue to withdraw.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The minister has the call.

**Mr DICK:** Thank you. But where is the Leader of the Opposition?

**Mr McEACHAN:** I rise to a point of order.

**Mr DICK:** When will he account for the behaviour of his staff—

**Mr McEACHAN:** I rise to a point of order.

**Mr DICK:**—a close personal confidant—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, Minister! You may make your point. I think I know what the point of order is going to be.

**Mr McEACHAN:** I find the remarks offensive and I ask the member to withdraw.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The minister has withdrawn—unreservedly withdrawn—and I—

**Mr STEVENS:** I rise to a point of order.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** What is the point of order?

**Mr STEVENS:** There is a convention: there is no reference to the presence or otherwise of any member, and the minister has just referred to a member who is not here.

**Mr DICK:** I am making a rhetorical point. I know it is difficult for the opposition to understand rhetorical points, but—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, Minister! There is no point of order. The minister has the call.

**Mr DICK:** These are frivolous points of order seeking to silence members of parliament. That is their behaviour. The question is: where is the Leader of the Opposition in this public issue? When will he come out and condemn his Chief of Staff—a close personal political operative who has supported him for 10 years? What did the Leader of the Opposition know and when did he know it? When will he condemn his own Chief of Staff and act—act to put some skerrick of integrity back into the LNP, which has been completely shredded over the last 24 hours?