




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

CFMEU

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (10.23 am): Yesterday we saw a video emerge of CFMEU officials plotting to strengthen their influence on the Labor Party. You do not have to plot influence on something you already own. There is no plotting of influence, because the ownership is already there. A week prior to that another video was released which showed the CFMEU bullying not only workers—subcontractors—but also government officials. Day after day we have seen the union that claims to be a champion of the workers demonising the workers, threatening the workers and using thuggish behaviour. There are 100 CFMEU officials before the courts at the moment for alleged offences. The CFMEU are not there for the workers; they are there for the CFMEU and the CFMEU officials. The Labor Party conference last weekend even joined in solidarity with a motion—something about loving the union movement. It probably came with a cheque for \$100K from the CFMEU. Who knows?

Under Minister Grace, Plumbers Union president Brad O'Carroll rolled into the department and got a job. There was no application and no appointment process; he just got a job. More concerning now, we see reports that another union boss is about to get a gig from this government. Yesterday's *Courier-Mail* article titled 'Top insurer job tipped for ex-chief of miners' states that Bruce Watson, national secretary of the CFMEU, is about to be appointed the CEO of WorkCover Queensland.

That appointment would be totally unacceptable. Businesses would be shivering in their boots knowing that a CFMEU national secretary will be in charge of claims by workers of \$1.2 billion. They say that he will be independent. Putting a CFMEU official in charge of WorkCover is equivalent to putting a fox in charge of the henhouse. When the *Courier-Mail* asked the Minister for Industrial Relations yesterday if this inappropriate appointment was happening, a spokesman for the minister's office said that he was unable to locate the minister.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Maybe she was at the V8s. Maybe she was at Splendour in the Grass with Shannon Fentiman. Who knows where they were? This morning I went onto eBay and found that you can get a GPS tracking device for \$31 and you can get a spy mini generation 2 tracking device for \$2. I suggest to the minister's staff who are watching proceedings downstairs that they download the app 'Where's my minister?' This appointment will be completely unacceptable to businesses and employees right around the state of Queensland.