




Speech By
Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

Record of Proceedings, 18 February 2016

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Ethics Committee Report

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (2.41 pm): This has been the worst week of Lawrence Springborg's leadership. The Leader of the Opposition leaves the parliament this week with three of his own senior members desperately trying to get away from him. There is a cloud over his personal office and a stale stench over his leadership. Mr Springborg cannot simply dodge scrutiny and let the member for Warrego walk the plank for him. There are a lot of questions that the people of Queensland deserve to have answered from the alternative premier of this state.

There is no doubt that the member for Warrego has been punished by the chamber. At least the member for Warrego accepted her mistakes, offered an apology and accepted the penalty of the parliament. The same cannot be said of the tired old Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition has some serious questions to answer about the conduct of his opposition team and his private office. He needs to tell the House what he knew and when he knew it. He needs to answer what he knew about the clear collusion between his private office dabbling in the private proceedings of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee. What did Lawrence Springborg know about his chief of staff assisting the member for Warrego when she was disclosing information and misleading the Ethics Committee?

The LNP's own election review, which was conducted by a former premier and deputy premier of this state, stated clearly that while in government and opposition the LNP would be required to adhere to principles that include respecting the institutions of this state and that a lack of accountability will not be tolerated. Mr Springborg must adhere to these principles, and I call on him to throw open his books and level with the parliament and the people of Queensland.

The LNP walked into this place this week thinking that they had the upper hand. Well, politics moves fast and today they leave in complete disarray. The government set the challenge of getting its legislative agenda through this week, and we did it. The opposition walked in here with no alternative, no policy, no vision and nothing for the rest of Queensland. They had plenty of swipes and complaints, but again they have been found wanting: shrill, hopeless, shallow and exposed. Anything less of the alternative premier of Queensland is not acceptable. He must come clean about what happened with respect to the member for Warrego, what occurred before the Ethics Committee and what occurred before the PCCC. This matter needs to be resolved.

Madam Deputy Speaker, as a former senator in the Australian parliament I have never seen conduct such as I have from those opposite. This is disgraceful behaviour, and they should be condemned for their actions and the manner in which they threw the member for Warrego under the bus!