



Speech By  
**Verity Barton**


**MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**

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Record of Proceedings, 31 August 2016

**MOTION**

**Trade Unions**

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (6.05 pm): This evening in this House it gives me great pleasure to rise to speak in support of the motion that has been moved by the shadow Treasurer and the shadow minister for small business. It is heartening to know that the 42 members on this side of the House speak for the 80 per cent of Queenslanders who are not members of unions, unlike the members of the government who speak for only 20 per cent of Queenslanders, as they are controlled and dictated to by union leaders. What we have seen is the hypocrisy and the hyperbole of this government—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I cannot hear the member for Broadwater clearly.

**Miss BARTON:** As I was saying, what we continue to see from that side of the House is hypocrisy and hyperbole. They keep saying that they care about accountability and transparency. However, today with the announcement that Kathy Jackson will face charges we have seen that even the whistleblower who tried to do in the friend of the member for Ferny Grove and the friend of the member for Redcliffe and even those who seek to be whistleblowers themselves are not angels. If that is not dodgy union works, I do not know what is.

What we see, particularly on the Gold Coast, is the effect of the actions of their union mates on jobs and the economy. We know that the Labor Party in this state refuses to distance themselves from the CFMEU. We have the members for Bundamba and Mirani very proudly proclaiming in this House that they are members of the CFMEU. It is the CFMEU on the Gold Coast that is holding up the construction of vital infrastructure for the Commonwealth Games. It is the CFMEU on the Gold Coast that is more concerned about how their prawns are fried than whether or not those buildings will be built. In 2018 my home town will be on display and it is not being aided by the corrupt dodgy union mates of this government.

We know that this government refuses to distance themselves from the CFMEU. They refuse to distance themselves from people such as Michael Ravbar, who, before appearing before the trade union royal commission, instructed people to set fire to about eight tonnes of documents. I would say that there is no smoke without fire. We know that they are incapable of even managing a bonfire, because by seeking to destroy so many documents they could not even set fire to paper. These are the people whom we are trusting to build the infrastructure that Queensland needs, but they cannot even set fire to a couple of pieces of paper.

What we do know is that Queensland is lagging behind when it comes to economic growth. What we do know is that Queensland is lagging behind when it comes to construction growth. We know that that is all at the hands of this Labor government and their union mates. We know that the decisions that

this government makes are decisions made by their union masters. We know that the decisions that this government makes are not in the best interests of Queenslanders but are in the best interests of their union mates.

That is all the Labor Party does. They do not care about the economic interests of Queensland. They do not care about the jobs of Queenslanders. If they did, they would make sure that they sent the independent umpire to tell their union mates to get back to work on the Gold Coast. We saw the CFMEU play politics not only with the Commonwealth Games construction but also with the construction of the new children hospital across the river. How disgraceful that a union would play politics with a hospital for sick children being built in this state. It is absolutely disgraceful. It is those people who have been adversely named by the trade union royal commission who will proudly take selfies with the Premier. It is people like Peter Simpson of the ETU who proudly proclaim that criminal motorcycle gangs are supporters of his union. Those are their associates.

It is absolutely disgraceful that in 2016 we have a government that is dictated to and controlled by unions that represent only 20 per cent of Queenslanders. What that means is that Queenslanders suffer. It means that they do not get the infrastructure that they need. It means that they do not get the economic growth that they need. It means that they do not get the jobs that they need. That is all because this asleep-at-the-wheel Labor government refuses to do anything other than bow to their union dictators and their union masters. They should hang their heads in shame.