




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 23 May 2017

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Leader of the Opposition

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.25 am): In the last few months Queenslanders have been subjected to the vainglorious yet ham-fisted spectacle of the Leader of the Opposition trying to rebrand himself. We have had the dirt bikes; we have had the stubbies and thongs; we have had him going hard in the front bar of the pub sipping on the shandies. The Leader of the Opposition is looking to the past to try to explain to Queenslanders who he really is.

All of this really is a sideshow to the one real issue which he refuses to deal with and that is his relationship with One Nation. The tawdry affair with One Nation is there for all to see. The latest revelations expose One Nation as a political party not of principle but of profit. They are not just content to use the election to line their own pockets but are a party happy to rip off their own members, supporters and candidates in the process.

Elections are meant to be a contest of ideas and philosophy, not boiler room schemes to rip off voters on the way through. Yet James Ashby and Pauline Hanson are running One Nation as a money-making exercise, clipping the ticket of every vote on the way through because for them every vote is another dollar that they can find to put in their coffers. We are still waiting for answers on who owns the plane used by Pauline Hanson in the last election campaign. She claims it was a gift from a generous benefactor—we should all be so lucky—which is at complete odds with what James Ashby said, which was that he bought the plane. This comes from a man who said a few months ago he could not pay his own legal bills.

The Queensland public need answers and they need answers from the Leader of the Opposition, who has kicked the door wide open to a coalition government with One Nation. He needs to find courage, finally show some leadership and say he is not an accessory to One Nation's scheme to rip off Queensland voters. For once in his life he needs to stand up to One Nation and rule out a deal with One Nation. That is critical to the future of his leadership.

He has distanced himself from everything in the past. It appears he was not the treasurer; he did not do any of that in the last government. That was Campbell Newman. Do honourable members remember that? It was not his fault; it was not his doing. What happened when his staffer was caught out talking to Ashby about a deal? He did not know anything about it. He put it off. It was someone else's problem.

The Leader of the Opposition is like an ostrich with his head in the sand. It is not good enough for Queensland. He needs to show some courage and rule out a deal with One Nation once and for all.