



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2017

**MOTION**

**Liberal National Party, Political Donations**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (12.14 pm): There is only one group that should be held in contempt in the court of public opinion and that is the Liberal National Party in Queensland. In this place you can run as many legal arguments as you like, but when I was growing up you were told to do the right thing. Queenslanders expect political parties that take public money, as well as private money, to be up-front and disclose the source of their funding. This is what Queenslanders expect and those opposite can run as many legal arguments as they want. It is no wonder that they do not like the Constitution: the federal leader and deputy leader of the National Party are in the High Court of Australia. It is pretty hard to read a document that is 116 years old.

They can run as many legal arguments as they want, but the history of the Liberal National Party is about not only avoiding scrutiny but also trying to bring down the architecture of scrutiny in this state. We would not be talking about the CCC, a modernised Electoral Commission or any of those things if it had not been for the corruption of the National Party, aided and abetted by the Liberal Party, when there were some Liberals in this state. Every day of the past 30 years since Fitzgerald the Liberal National Party has tried to avoid scrutiny and undermine that architecture of transparency and accountability.

What did the then leader of the opposition and now Premier say in this House as she fought vigorously and long for transparency and accountability in this state? She fought vigorously and long against those members who spoke in the House this morning when they were in government. The member for Mansfield and the member for Clayfield came into this House and destroyed the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee overnight. They came in, in the depths of the night, to destroy that committee because they did not like it. They thought they had a right to do so because they had the numbers. The seven and then nine members of the Labor Party in opposition fought vigorously and long to restore accountability and transparency in this state, supported by crossbenchers, including Independent members of this House, who hold those values so dear, including you, Mr Speaker.

What did the then leader of the opposition say? On 2 June 2014 on ABC News she said—

So I am putting the LNP on notice: You can go ahead with your selection process but we will axe that process and we will start again.

...

I am putting on notice to all the parties today—make sure your records are accurate, because they will be disclosed when Labor is back in power.

The Liberal National Party wants to launder money through their federal office and not disclose it. That is exactly what they want to do. Everyone in this House is expected to comply with the law—everyone. Every political party does, but we do not have to be told to do so by the Supreme Court. We

do not have to be the subject of an application by the Electoral Commission of Queensland. We do it because we know it is the right thing to do, including the Queensland Greens, Katter's Australian Party and One Nation. Although they have trouble sometimes, they are trying to comply. It would not be often that I compliment One Nation for doing the right thing, but at least they are trying. However, we have the Liberal National Party fighting tooth and nail.

**Mr Springborg** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** I hear the member for Southern Downs interject. There is a very long history of avoiding scrutiny: after the 2009 election they would not disclose the \$20,000-a-plate dinner. The member for Bulimba will remember that from when we were members of that parliament and fought hard to get that disclosure, but it was never disclosed.

What happened with their self-confessed fraudster and con man Scott Driscoll—the man they defended in this House day after day and who is now serving time at Her Majesty's pleasure? What did the Liberal Party say about the \$50,000 he ripped off from small business and gave to the LNP? A report in the *Brisbane Times* on 7 March this year stated—

The Liberal National Party has "no intention" of returning more than \$50,000 it received as a result of the fraudulent activities of its former MP Scott Driscoll.

...

Driscoll admitted transferring a further \$110,000 from the QRTSA—

the Queensland Retail Traders and Shopkeepers Association—

into Norsefire—

his company—

in August 2012, \$57,000 of which was used to pay a deposit on a property. He also transferred ownership of a ... car to himself ...

He also admitted forging documents and while he was an MP, soliciting kickbacks from supermarket giants Coles and Woolworths ...

They have never given the money back. The most sickening part of it—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I know it is getting willing. The next speaker will be the member for Callide. You will have the opportunity to speak then.

**Mr DICK:** The most sickening part of it is that he stole money from what they claim and believe to be their core constituency—hardworking small business men and women across the state. He washed \$50,000 through the LNP—just as they are trying to wash this money through the federal office.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** I take the interjection from government members. Not only is it shame; it is a complete and utter disgrace. That is their history; that is their form. Oh for the days of Gordon Chalk or Llew Edwards or Terry White, who had the guts to tear up the coalition agreement and walk away from the then coalition with the National Party. All of the Liberals on the other side supinely support hiding these things—the member for Mansfield, the member for Indooroopilly and the member for Clayfield.

Not only is this about proper disclosure; it is also about leadership. This is fundamentally a test of leadership—that is, whether the Liberal National Party is controlled and influenced by the parliamentary party, by the member for Clayfield, or whether all of that control is ceded to Bowen Street, Spring Hill, the party office. Who is running the LNP?

After the hollow and weak performance by the Leader of the Opposition, who could not even speak to the motion—he could not even speak to the idea of a donation; he could not even say the word 'donation' in the debate—is it any wonder that he was elected leader of the Liberal National Party with the full support of a third of his party room. That is what he got in the first round. Two out of three members of his party room wanted someone else as the leader when they were asked the first time. We wonder where they sit on that situation now.

This is about compliance and not avoidance. We know the Leader of the Opposition wants to avoid telling the people of Queensland what his position is on Buy Queensland and whether he wants to support small business men and women in regional and rural parts of our state, when the government wants to use its procurement and buying power to support jobs and businesses in constituencies that they represent.

What is his position on Cross River Rail? Nobody knows because he wants to take a small target, just as he took a small target this morning and refused to say. I would have had more respect for the member for Clayfield if he said, 'We do not believe in the law and we do not support it.' I would have had more respect for him in that case, but he cannot even do that. He hides behind legal arguments. He will not even engage in the debate. He somehow pretends to the people of Queensland that he should be the premier.

I will stand with this Premier every day of the week with our government's commitment to transparency and accountability, not only lowering the threshold for donations but also bringing in real-time donations. That is what this government will do.

If you cannot run your party, you cannot run Queensland. That is the fundamental truth of this. This is out of the hands of the Leader of the Opposition. He cannot control his parliamentary party. He cannot control the Liberal National Party state office. He is happy to cede control to hide the donors and to hide the funders with whom he may have done deals for preference and support in the future. Labor will do the right thing. This motion is all about the Liberal National Party and the member for Clayfield doing the right thing for Queensland.