




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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MOTION

Liberal National Party, Political Donations

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (8.23 pm): I refer to the blowing up of the Deputy Premier's ill-fated political stunt, which she tried to pull this morning. What a debacle today has become. What a disaster. The Deputy Premier thought she was going to be extremely smart and stand up to dupe the Premier again, right in her face—just like she did on the Adani deal. It just went completely wrong, because when the Leader of the Opposition called it out for what it was the Deputy Premier realised her mistake.

Of course, the debate was meant to be curtailed during the day. The Labor Party tried to shut down the debate and did not want us to talk about it, because it realised that the bomb had blown up in its face. We on this side of the House started today by talking about the Labor Party and its cons, costs and crises. What have we seen today? We have seen a con from the Deputy Premier, trying to con the Premier that something was going to happen in favour of the Labor Party. Then it turned into an absolute crisis that has cost us all the day—all because this Deputy Premier decided that she was going to move a motion.

Mr Seeney interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection from the member for Callide. She tried to be half smart and it has blown up in her face.

I listened with great interest to the member for Mansfield's contribution. It was a very good contribution to this debate because it set out what it should have been—that is, the matter is before the courts. I went to the university of the real world and I got my law degree. I do not know where the Premier got her law degree and I do not know where the Deputy Premier got her law degree, but they should have listened when the separation of powers and influencing the court were taught. They decide that they know better so they come in here and try to influence this House. The influence did not work for them, because they lost in that debate. Here we are still debating it.

The Leader of the House then came into this House to try to curtail the debate again. We moved an amendment to extend debate of the motion to two hours so that more people on our side could contribute. No-one on the other side of the House wants to talk about the ill-fated Premier or the ill-fated Deputy Premier and what they did to their side of politics today by moving this motion. What a debacle. What a crisis we have seen.

Let us look at some of the close links we see in relation to donations and the Labor Party. The member for Kawana just started on that but I will add to it. Who are the most powerful unions and how much do they contribute to those opposite and their campaigns? Gary Bullock, the secretary of United Voice, donated \$518,000. This is the union that represents some of the lowest paid people in this state. They give away our hardworking—

Mr Seeney interjected.

Ms Grace interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Minister and member for Callide, please cease your conversation across the chamber. The member for Nanango has the call.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I would like to take up that line of thought, though, given that we just heard a minister opposite say that it is none of our business where that money comes from. I think those hardworking people who contribute to United Voice would like to know that nearly half a million dollars goes to those people opposite—

Mr Seeney: Out of the pockets of the workers.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Out of the pockets of the workers. They would care. The Minister for Industrial Relations says, 'Who cares?' The lowest paid people across this state care. They want to know where their money goes. It is an embarrassment that low-paid workers across our state have been told by a minister in this House that their union is giving half a million dollars—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! There are too many people reacting to comments from either side. There is one person speaking and it is the member for Nanango. The member for Nanango has the call.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: If I can move on to the AWU, Ben Swan donated \$296,730.55. Peter Simpson from the ETU donated \$245,985. Then we see good old boy Michael Ravbar from the CFMEU, he of the selfie with the Premier, who donated almost \$162,000. Let us not forget the RTBU, the authors of Labor's 'rail fail'. They gave Labor almost \$68,000. One would have to ask: what favours did the Labor Party give their union mates in relation to those cash donations? We have heard from those opposite that they do not care.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Minister and member for Callide, I have already spoken to you about conversations across the chamber. Next time I will warn you.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I want to conclude on this point: ultimately what we are talking about here today is the simple fact that the Deputy Premier essentially moved a motion against her own Premier because she did not trust the leadership capabilities of the Premier of Queensland. When you are the Premier of Queensland and the only thing you have done for this great state is initiate 213 reviews, you become known as a Premier who just reviews and simply does not do.

I think the people of Queensland deserve better. They deserve better than this inept government. Today they certainly have seen this government for what it is: a mob of backstabbers, a mob of people who are just so untrusting of their own Premier they have to try to unseat her through a motion in the House. I will conclude as the member for Kawana did and acknowledge the presence in the gallery of two great constituents of mine, Barb Madden and Andrew Shearer-Smith. It is great to see them here in the gallery today.