



Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 9 August 2017

**MOTION**

**Palaszczuk Labor Government, CFMEU**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (6.01 pm): I move—

That this House notes that over \$10 million worth of fines have been levied against the CFMEU and condemns the Palaszczuk Labor government for failing to disaffiliate from these lawless thugs.

Before I commence the debate I acknowledge in the gallery tonight Reg and Ann Atkinson who, as a result of their unfortunate generosity at a 4 Paws charity night, won a raffle to have dinner with me this evening. I apologise to Reg and Ann for what is about to ensue and I hope for their sake they are not members of the CFMEU.

As I noted, this motion condemns the Palaszczuk Labor government again for not dissociating themselves from the union thugs in the CFMEU. Time and time again in Queensland and right around Australia we have seen the lawlessness of the CFMEU and other unions in Australia in their continual disregard for the laws of the land. We are legislators: we legislate for laws for the protection and good governance of the citizens of the state of Queensland as does the Commonwealth government. We have laws to prevent union thugs from engaging in the types of activities that they engage in, and yet they continually disregard these laws. They say that it is okay and they are allowed to disregard the law. We heard the head of the ACTU say, 'It's okay for unions to disregard the laws because we don't believe the laws should be the laws.' It does not matter if you believe you should be able to do 200 kilometres an hour on the Bruce Highway, the law is that you cannot. The law is that you can do 100 or 110 kilometres an hour on the Bruce Highway in certain sections. We have laws for a reason and the unions—particularly the CFMEU—have been involved in many court cases now as a result of their flagrant disregard for the law.

For the first time in Australia's history they have copped over \$10 million worth of fines as a result of the courts of the land saying they have breached Australian law. They have now racked up \$10 million worth of fines. We have also seen \$13 million given in donations to the Labor Party, so we are up to \$23 million. There is \$10 million in fines and \$13 million given to the Labor Party in donations: that is \$23 million.

**Mr Walker:** What's left over?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** What's left over? I suspect there is a lot left over, member for Mansfield, because these are union members' dues they are using to pay their fines as a result of their disregard for the law. That is not to mention the union fat cat thugs who take big salaries home while claiming to represent the poor worker. They get in their Mercedes-Benz and leave Peel Street every night. They get in their \$100,000 or \$200,000 vehicles—

**An opposition member:** Limousines!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Or limousines—they are chauffeured down to their homes with their company credit cards, but the poor union thug official looks after the poor worker! I feel sorry for them, jumping in their black leather Mercedes-Benz. I feel sorry for the union thugs. All they have to worry about is not losing their union credit card—which is paid for by union members—so they can pay for fuel for their vehicles. That is all they have to worry about. We know that the Attorney-General on that side always talks about the courts and having respect for the courts. Let us talk about the courts and some of the cases that have been decided recently. In 2016 Justice Jessup said—

The CFMEU's record of non-compliance with legislation of this kind has now become notorious ... That record ought to be an embarrassment to the trade union movement.

Justice Jessup also said—

I am bound to say that the conduct referred to in the schedule bespeaks an organisational culture in which contraventions of the law have become normalised.

Justice Jessup also stated—

Has there ever been a worse recidivist in the history of the common law?

He was speaking about the union movement, and that is a judge who said that. Justice White said—

It bespeaks an attitude by the CFMEU of ignoring, if not defying, the law and a willingness to contravene it as and when it chooses.

Justice Tracey said—

... bespeak a deplorable attitude, on the part of the CFMEU, to its legal obligations and the statutory process which govern relations between unions and employers in this country.

Judge Jarrett said—

The CFMEU has an egregious record of repeated and wilful contraventions of all manner of industrial laws.

He also said—

Choosing unlawful means to further its industrial objectives appeared to be the business model of the CFMEU.

Judge Burnett said—

The only reasonable conclusion to be drawn is that the organisation either does not understand or does not care for the legal restrictions on industrial activity imposed by the legislature and the courts.

I say they are thugs and they do not care what the courts say. They do not care and the Labor Party is beholden to the union movement. The Labor Party should dissociate and disaffiliate—

*(Time expired)*