



Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 October 2017

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Queensland Labor, Unions**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (10.15 am): The Queensland branch of the Australian Labor Party and the trade union movement work hand in glove to the detriment of all Queenslanders. Despite union membership being on a fast decline and at record low levels, the influence over the Labor Party is still paramount. The trade union movement do not just have a perception of influence over the Labor Party; they own them lock, stock and barrel. Whether that comes in the form of cash donations or other gifts in kind, policy decisions, grassroots campaigning or support, peddling misinformation and mistruths in the media or just simply selling out the worker to line the pockets of union fat cat puppetmasters, it is in their DNA. When it comes to dodgy deals, Queensland workers need look no further than Labor's highest office holder in the land, Bill Shorten. He was the head of the Australian Workers' Union before he entered parliament and traded away the penalty rates of low paid workers in a grubby backroom deal so he could line the pockets of the union movement. Under that grubby deal, those lowly paid cleaners were ripped off to the tune of \$420 million. Now we look at the Premier who sits across the chamber, the protege of Bill Shorten.

Let us look at the senior leaders. The union bosses have control over who is elected as Labor leader. They have control over who gets into cabinet and which portfolio ministers get. Annastacia Palaszczuk is a puppet to the union bosses in Queensland, which means Labor always governs in self-interest and not in the interests of Queenslanders.

Look at how this government has been run over the past 2½ years. Labor reintroduced the union encouragement policy, selling out the privacy rights of public sector workers. They overtly support campaigns about penalty rate decisions in the federal IR jurisdiction when the powers were actually referred in 2009 under the former Bligh Labor government when Cameron Dick was the IR minister. They scrapped right-of-entry protections against militant unions like the CFMEU. Retail trading hours changed to favour and support the shoppies union. They created Energy Queensland so the ETU can compete against mum-and-dad electrical contractors and expand their membership base. They introduced the Teachers' Union veto for independent public schools. Labor withdrew from the federal police task force looking at union corruption despite the fact that the task force was funded by the federal government.

They participate in push polling. Remember when Alex Scott spent \$100,000 of hardworking union members' money on push polling? Honourable members should wait for the election; the Labor Party might not be putting One Nation anywhere but last, but wait to see what the unions do in their third-party campaign. Let them sign a stat dec saying that they are not going to put One Nation last. There have been corruption investigations. They have shredded documents. They put documents in horse floats. Hundreds of CFMEU officials are currently before the courts. Let us not forget that parliament is sitting this week because the CFMEU have legislation they want passed.

They are just a few of the favours that the puppetmasters have given to the Labor Party. We know that they are owned lock, stock and barrel by the union movement in Queensland.