




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 11 October 2017

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

CFMEU

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (3.00 pm): When will this Premier grow a spine and stand up to the thuggery, intimidation and lawlessness of the unions and their downright disgusting and morally corrupt behaviour exposed for all to see in media reports today? Queenslanders would have been sickened today to learn that a bunch of CFMEU grubs in Central Queensland had threatened to rape children, to bash people with crowbars and to physically harm others because they did not bow to the CFMEU demands.

What type of state are we living in where this despicable behaviour is tacitly condoned and accepted by a union-beholden government led by this Premier? There is, of course, a saying: the conduct you walk past is the conduct you accept. That certainly rings true with this Premier. This Premier is a see-nothing, know-nothing, do-nothing Premier when it comes to the unlawful thuggish behaviour of the union movement.

Once again, today, this Premier has failed the leadership 101 test. Instead of standing up against these lawless and despicable thugs, what did she do? What did she do when she was asked? She merely said that their behaviour was 'unacceptable'. Here is the quote: 'It is not acceptable.' That is it. What did the Minister for Women say? Nothing. What did the Minister for Health say? Nothing. What did the Minister for Education say? Nothing. We have a Premier who should have said so much more but effectively said nothing.

Why is that? It all comes down to money. This Premier is reliant on the tainted cash of the CFMEU and others to bankroll her campaign. She says she finds the CFMEU's disgusting and sickening behaviour unacceptable, but she obviously does not believe that taking their tainted money is unacceptable. We are only here this week, from all reports, because this government wants to push through union legislation—a thank you very much to the union movement for their cash. The Premier says, 'I kept my end of the bargain; you keep the cash flowing to my coffers.'

This Premier has allowed the CFMEU law-breakers to become Queensland lawmakers. At least Peter Beattie and Anna Bligh had the good sense to dissociate themselves, but this Premier does not have the moral fortitude, the spine, the backbone or the leadership to take the CFMEU out of her organisation. I challenge the Premier today to grow a spine, show some leadership, rule out taking money and hand it back.

(Time expired)