



Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Reports

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (5.55 pm): I am delighted to stand tonight to oppose this motion and delighted to follow the member for Kawana. Remember 'Operation Boring'? 'Operation Boring' was all about making the member for Kawana so secret that he was kept out of the public limelight in Queensland altogether. They hid the Premier, Campbell Newman and the member for Kawana from the entire Queensland community. There is one person who can lecture us on secrecy, and that is the member for Kawana.

When the member for Clayfield was the leader of the opposition in the last parliament he had the distinction of leading the worst opposition in Queensland history. The member for Clayfield can rest easy tonight, because, as hard as it is to believe, the LNP under the member for Nanango and the member for Everton has plumbed even lower depths. This motion has all the credibility of a late-night Donald Trump Twitter rant.

For the parliament to be debating a motion condemning the government for its arrogance, hypocrisy and secrecy from the fractured remnants of the Newman government—the most arrogant, the most hypocritical and the most secretive government in history—absolutely beggars belief. We knew they were inept. Now we know they are completely delusional. This is from the crew who fought like Kilkenny cats to hide their \$100,000 donors. Where are their health service investigations? They have been kept secret from the public. Where is the legal advice when they wanted to sink the Commonwealth Games? When it comes to arrogance, the LNP is in a league of its own.

Imagine presenting and putting forward a motion in the parliament on the release of information in mental health when they were part of a government that closed the Barrett centre against expert advice with tragic consequences. Imagine targeting the department of child safety when the member for Nanango and the member for Everton were part of a government that cut 225 child safety officers from the front line. In her righteous campaign the Leader of the Opposition knows that she will take no prisoners. *Dora the Explorer* will be put to the sword by the Leader of the Opposition in her righteous campaign for transparency across Queensland. Even Dora is not safe. Nothing in this motion is more revealing about the arrogance and incompetence of members opposite than item (h), the demand for the immediate publication of business cases. For the benefit of the LNP, contemporary research techniques 101 is go to your computer and click on the Google icon. Google, for the members opposite, is a search engine on the internet. Under the word 'Google' there is an empty rectangle. In that space type the words 'Nullinga Dam business case'. That is in their motion. Now read how the business case was publicly released last February. The Leader of the Opposition got us tonight! Now type in 'Cross River Rail' and read how that business case was released last August. The member for Nanango got us again!

This reckless and pernicious motion seeks to undermine the core democratic principle of governance which is cabinet confidentiality. The definition of optimism: the hope that one day the opposition will be worthy of the position they hold in this House.

To be lectured by the LNP on arrogance and hypocrisy is like being lectured by Barnaby Joyce on how to staff a ministerial office. This is from the crew who sacked the PCCC, dumped their own hand-picked head of the Ethics Committee and made the Chief Magistrate the Chief Justice—thanks again, member for Kawana. This is from the crew who is still fighting the courts to hide their donors, who rode roughshod—

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister is a former attorney-general and he knows in this place not to discuss judicial officers. The person he is speaking to is a justice of the Supreme Court of Queensland. He is making reflections on a justice of the Supreme Court. I would ask you to rule on that, Mr Speaker.

Mr DICK: I am happy to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: That is fine. Just in explanation, I think the minister may have been making possible reflections on the former attorney-general, not a judicial officer, but the minister has withdrawn.

Mr DICK: I will say this about being the Attorney-General of Queensland. One appeal I am most proud about was appealing the sentence against Gordon Nuttall. I got him to serve more jail time. This is from the LNP, who rode roughshod over every principle and convention when it suited them in government—during the grim, dark but mercifully short years of government.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. The minister earlier in his contribution in this debate said that the LNP sacked child safety officers. There has been, from my understanding, an ethics investigation into that matter and they found that statement to be misleading previously. Mr Speaker, I am going to be writing to you about this matter to draw it to your attention.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Kawana. For future reference, I do not believe that point of order is warranted, and it certainly was not in my view a matter of privilege suddenly arising. If you hear of something, I encourage you to write to me, as I have given rulings in the past. I find this may have been an attempt to disrupt the speaker.

Mr DICK: I apologise if those child safety officers voluntarily resigned. One of the most remarkable things about the LNP is their capacity to disappoint, made all the more remarkable when you consider how little we expect of them. Can I just say the abiding image of this parliament is the last fragments of the LNP's moral character in full retreat. I urge members to oppose the motion.

(Time expired)