




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 16 May 2018

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (COUNCILLOR COMPLAINTS) AND OTHER
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORAL
(IMPLEMENTING STAGE 1 OF BELCARRA) AND OTHER LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (3.20 pm): I love it when the Deputy Premier comes in here and gives us a history lesson. Let us take a walk down memory lane for the Deputy Premier. Let us talk about section 57 of the Criminal Code. It was a very important part of the Criminal Code. It was about corruption and it was particularly about members of parliament who misled parliamentary committees and it attracted a jail term. If a member were to breach it and be found guilty of such offence, they would be serving a term in prison. There was one particular former minister of this House who was found wanting under section 57.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjections: what was his name? I will get to his name in a second. I am just giving a history lesson. The Deputy Premier loves history. That was Gordon Nuttall. Gordon Nuttall was a Labor minister. Instead of Gordon Nuttall going through the appropriate legal channels of being charged and then prosecuted, what did Peter Beattie and the Labor government do? They recalled parliament and got members of parliament to deal with section 57 of the Criminal Code to protect Gordon Nuttall. How did they deal with it? They deleted the provision from the Criminal Code and, therefore, Gordon Nuttall could not be prosecuted for committing a criminal offence against section 57 because it was no longer in the code.

Guess what the Liberal National Party did? In one of the first bills that we introduced when we came to power in 2012 we reintroduced section 57 to the Criminal Code. We reintroduced it into the Criminal Code because we believed that, if one were corrupt, that was a provision that should be in the Criminal Code. The Deputy Premier talked for 10 minutes but did not mention when she was the state secretary of the Labor Party accepting \$5,000 cheques from Mr Eddie Obeid. Where is Mr Eddie Obeid now?

An opposition member: He's in jail.

Mr BLEIJIE: I hear it has some bars on the door. Where was Gordon Nuttall?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: He was behind bars as well. The Deputy Premier should not come in here and lecture the LNP about accountability and integrity when some of their members are either behind bars or have been behind bars for corruption in this state. When the Premier comes in here and talks about integrity and accountability, she was part of the government that deleted section 57 from the Criminal Code. That is how the Labor Party treats integrity.

When talking about history, let us take another walk down memory lane with regard to the current Attorney-General. When the polling was not going their way before the last election—oh no, do not face the people under the current electoral laws—what did those opposite do? They came in here without notice and changed the electoral system from voluntary preferential voting to compulsory preferential voting. With 18 minutes notice, they changed the voting system in Queensland. The Labor Party deletes a section of the Criminal Code so that its minister could not be prosecuted, the Deputy Premier accepts cheques from Eddie Obeid as state secretary of the Labor Party and the current Attorney-General changed the electoral system—ups the electoral system in the air—for their political advantage in terms of compulsory preferential voting.

This bill, particularly the provisions with respect to banning developer donations, is an extension of the corrupt activities from the Labor Party in trying to nobble the LNP. It is targeting one particular section of our community, and that is the development industry. Those opposite have always misused the CCC in that they have always used the CCC for political purposes. There was one sentence in Alan MacSparran's report in which the CCC said that the state may in the future like to look to include the state with regard to developer donations but only after a comprehensive review or based on evidence. They grabbed that one sentence and ran in here. They grabbed it and they ran in here to put it in their bill and hide it under the guise of integrity and accountability for councils.

The CCC then clarified its statement and said that if the state were to do it in the future it would need a comprehensive review and evidence. There is no evidence and yet when we put it to the Labor Party as to why it does not include the trade union movement, it says, 'Because there's no evidence.' That is what we are saying about property developers in the state: there is no evidence. Those opposite do not include trade unions because there is no evidence, but they include banning developer contributions without basis and without evidence. They have a different political view depending on what fixes their electoral chances and benefits their electoral success in the state of Queensland. That is the Labor way.

The Deputy Premier talks about the CCC. Do not forget that the CCC was subjected to a comprehensive review by a former High Court judge under the LNP government and they made damning findings as to how the CMC was being run at the time. Earlier the Deputy Premier said in here, 'I was on the PCCC and I was sacked in the middle of the night.' What the Deputy Premier does not tell new members in the House is that she had tweeted and put on Facebook that the one person they were investigating was guilty of the offences before the committee had the chance to decide the matter. She had prejudged the outcome of the committee. They do not tell anyone that. They do not tell anyone about that when they give a history lesson. That is basically the Labor way—that is, what is in its political interests and for expediency. That is what it will do and it will ram it through this House.

What came out of the Premier's mouth in opposition shows that she is a completely different person when in government. In fact, Labor members have told me that the Premier is only Premier by name and that she runs her caucus more like a royal court. It is more like a royal court. In fact, one member of the Labor Party said that it is more 'Princess' Palaszczuk than Premier. That is how she runs the cabinet and that is how she runs the caucus. As I said last year, she flies in the government jet to Western Queensland and expects a little boy or girl to wait down the bottom of the stairs with a flower bouquet because 'Her Majesty Princess' Palaszczuk has arrived in Western Queensland. That is the reality.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member for Kawana, that is unparliamentary. Please withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. We have seen the arrogance of the Premier now that she has a majority in this House, especially this morning when she said, 'This bill will pass this week.' When she was the opposition leader and I was a minister my office inadvertently sent out a press release five minutes before the conclusion of consideration in detail. They were a bit eager to press 'send' on the press release saying that the bill had passed the parliament. My God! The now Premier stood up and accused me of corruption. She said that I was deliberately misleading the House and called for my resignation because a press release had gone out. However, she can stand in here this morning and demand the bill be passed come hell or high water. The arrogance that the Premier displays in government shows that she is a completely different person to the person she was in opposition. This morning the member for Woodridge attacked an outstanding member of the media gallery for having dinner with a shadow minister. My goodness! God forbid: a shadow minister has dinner with a journalist!

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There is no relevance at all to the bill that is being debated. The member should be brought back to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Thank you, Leader of the House. I have granted a degree of latitude, but I would like you to come back to the long title of the bill.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I make the point that the Deputy Premier, in her contribution, talked of matters that occurred 20 or 30 years ago and were not contained in the bill. I understand why the Leader of the House does not want to hear what I am saying, because the members opposite do not like their history and their lack of accountability and integrity repeated to them.

This morning, the member for Woodridge, the Minister for State Development, made a terrible attack on a member of the media gallery. He did not say that the Labor Party members only knew that the shadow minister had dinner with a journalist because Labor Party members had dinner with journalists at the same restaurant. The member for Woodridge will not say that, because the Labor members do not care. It is their way or the highway.

This bill, which bans donations from property developers, is simply to nobble the LNP's chances of success at an election. That is why it is important to put a reference to unions in the bill. Do the members opposite really think that when a Queenslanders is asked, 'Do you think that trade unions have an undue influence over the Labor government in Queensland?' the average Queenslanders would say, 'No, the unions don't have a negative influence over the Labor Party'? I ask members to look at the legislation. They cannot tell me that the Labor Party has not been bought off and influenced by the trade union movement in Queensland. That is why it is so important that, if we are going to ban donations from developers, we should also ban donations from trade unions. If not, the CCC should have an inquiry into the relationship between the trade union movement and the Queensland Labor Party under this Premier.

(Time expired)