




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 18 September 2019

MOTION

Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, No Confidence

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (5.05 pm): I rise to oppose this motion. Of all the lamentable and incomprehensible motions that those opposite have moved in this House this surely is the most bizarre. Of all the issues the LNP might like to prosecute—of all the parties and all the issues—what do they land on? They land on ethical standards and integrity. Really and truly, being lectured on ethical standards by the LNP is like being lectured on parliamentary convention by Boris Johnson.

This is the mob that took the brown paper bag out of the tuckshop and into the executive building. This is the mob whose earliest actions in government included lifting the threshold at which political donations had to be declared from \$1,000 to \$12,500 and who fought every step of the way, including to the High Court, to keep secret \$100,000 in undisclosed contributions.

Who can forget the Al Capone years of the Newman LNP government when the PCCC was sacked in the middle of the night and Campbell Newman's handpicked head of the Ethics Committee was dumped and promptly joined the Palmer United Party. There was the absolute scandal surrounding the appointment of Campbell Newman's mate as the director-general of the Department of Transport and Main Roads without process at all. I remember Campbell Newman on the radio saying, 'We've been processed to death.' The cost to the taxpayer was hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The member for Mudgeeraba was forced to relinquish her ministerial position because of accusations of nepotism. We had the absolute debacle surrounding Dr Chris Davis—precisely because he had his own ethical standards. The man was hounded out of this parliament by the LNP and rejected by Campbell Newman's government for a position for which he was the only suitable candidate. That was overturned by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal. The cost to the taxpayer was \$1.5 million. This is the ethical and moral universe of the LNP. The LNP are to ethical standards what Barnaby Joyce is to the sanctity of marriage—far better at talking about it than sticking to its principles.

We will be hearing from the member for Kawana shortly. That will be a good one. Of all people, the member for Kawana will be lecturing others on ethical standards. I will say this for the member for Kawana, at least he has no shame. There was one person in Queensland who was happy when he became the attorney-general of Queensland. How could we forget Denver Beanland. How could you forget him. He was a proud member of the LNP who defied a no confidence vote of this House before breaking constitutional convention and refusing to resign. He was extremely happy when the member for Kawana became attorney-general because he was no longer the worst attorney-general in the history of Queensland. Even Denver Beanland had higher ethical standards than the member for Kawana because Denver Beanland never broke the confidence of the president of the Court of Appeal so those issues could be published in the newspaper. Parliamentary democracy is utterly dependent upon its processes. The democratic ideal—

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Sorry to interrupt, Minister. Member for Southern Downs, you are already under a warning. I have made myself clear: no interjections. You can leave the chamber for one hour. That goes for the members for Chatsworth, Gregory, Southport and Stretton.

Whereupon the honourable member for Southern Downs withdrew from the chamber at 5.09 pm.

Mr DICK: The democratic ideal rests upon the concepts of natural justice and procedural fairness to ensure that matters pertaining to personal misconduct, including allegations of impropriety, are considered carefully and deliberately by disinterested and independent arbiters—and in the case of Queensland that is the Crime and Corruption Commission.

Those members opposite yet again have shown their disdain for the capacity and the professionalism of the CCC, a body which owes its existence to the endemic corruption of earlier LNP administrations in this state. As was made crystal clear in question time today, it is impossible for the LNP to occupy the moral high ground while they continue to drag the standard of their own conduct further and further into the fetid swamp of unsubstantiated innuendo, which is exactly what we heard in the parliament this morning.

It is extraordinary, considering how low they have set the bar of expectations, the way the LNP continue to come up with new ways to disappoint. This motion was moved by the member for Everton—say no more. That is further evidence of the hypocrisy and intellectual decay at the heart of the Queensland LNP. It is a waste of the parliament's time, an absolute waste of the parliament's time. I support the Premier and the Deputy Premier and all members of this state parliamentary Labor Party in opposing this motion.

(Time expired)