




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Record of Proceedings, 15 October 2019

MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Liberal National Party, Integrity

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (2.11 pm): In this House those opposite talk big on integrity, but the reality is that they have none. They talk about the pub test. In fact, they continually rabbit on about the pub test, but they have no hope of passing it themselves and this morning we heard that quite clearly. They are rotten from the top down. In my electorate, people say that, when a fish rots, it rots from the head down and that is what we see from the LNP and, in particular, the National Party.

How was it okay for them to spend \$45,000 of taxpayers' money in 2017 to take themselves and their spouses on a tour of the Margaret River wine region under the guise of developing policy for the National Party in Queensland? Why did they not go to the Boyne River, the Mary River in the electorate of the member to my right or the Fitzroy River in Rockhampton? Why would they have to go to Margaret River to talk about National Party policy in Queensland? It is disgraceful that they go out of Queensland to make decisions on how they should run their policy here in Queensland.

How was it okay for them repeat that in 2018, at a cost of \$23,000, when they flew themselves and their spouses to a cocktail party and dinner at Luna Park in Sydney? I did a bit of homework on Luna Park and I found out that its motto states—

Experience endless family fun and excitement at Luna Park. With classic and adventure rides, there is something for everyone.

There is something not just for the National Party, but for everyone. I had a look at the rides on offer. At Luna Park, the No. 1 ride is the Dodgem City. It is more like 'dodgy city' with the Nationals heading there! The second best ride is the Hair Raiser. The member for Chatsworth was probably disappointed that he did not get to go on the trip. I am a bit follicly challenged myself, so I bet he was filthy. I bet that by the end the whole trip had hairs all over it, so the Hair Raiser was a good ride for them. The Moon Ranger is also a classic ride for them, as I worked out that the only reason they went all the way to Luna Park was to make a decision on which rangers to sack if they ever get into parliament again. Luna Park also has the Spider ride. Let us hope that it is a money spider, because the whole trip was about wasting Queensland's taxpayer funds. They finished off the day on the Ferris wheel. The members and their partners slowly went around, looking at the sights of Sydney.

For the record, those members who charged taxpayers \$45,000 for their little jaunt to Margaret River were the member for Surfers Paradise, the member for Mermaid Beach, the member for Toowoomba North, the member for Warrego, the member for Gympie and the former member for Lockyer. The member for Mermaid Beach said that the trip provided invaluable insights. He said, 'While I was there I did some other business.' What business did the member for Mermaid Beach do? An LNP spokesman said that the conference involved a range of seminars from different jurisdictions to assist in policy development. That is a generic statement that is really shorthand for, 'We got nothing, we did nothing, we have no excuses and we ripped off Queensland taxpayers.'

For the record, the members who attended the Luna Park love-in were the Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the member for Bundaberg, the member for Callide—I am sure he would have enjoyed a trip to Sydney—the member for Nicklin, the member for Warrego again, the member for Lockyer, the member for Gregory, the member for Gympie again, the member for Ninderry and the member for Condamine. After the trip, again they sent out a spokesman to defend the fact that they went to Sydney and that several members took their spouses, costing us \$23,000. I bet the opposition leader is glad that they made it only as far as Sydney, because we know what happens when the LNP heads to Melbourne. Twelve months ago we worked that out, when one of their members went down there by himself.

The spokesman also said that a number of policy areas impacting regional Queensland were discussed, including the drought. We know what they think about the drought. They went to the only part of New South Wales that is not drought declared to discuss the drought. If you want to discuss drought, why do you not do what you say you do and go out and talk to the drought-affected farmers—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Comments should be put through the chair.

Mr BUTCHER:—and others who are drought affected throughout Queensland? How do these members expect Queenslanders to swallow their excuses, which they keep rabbiting on about, such as that they were discussing the drought when they were in Sydney? This is an appalling abuse of power and an appalling abuse of Queensland taxpayer funds. It is appalling because the Queensland LNP members say that they are all about integrity, but this just goes to show that they have none of it.