




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 18 September 2019

MOTION

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

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (5.16 pm): I rise to oppose this motion. I oppose this motion for a number of very good reasons. If the member who just spoke, the shadow Attorney-General, who has a law degree I expect—

Ms Trad: Apparently.

Ms GRACE: Apparently—cannot not decipher and understand the CCC's determinations, then I suggest he goes back to university. He talks about lack of judgement as if with lack of judgement you have to be jailed or ostracised or whatever. If we applied that to those opposite, there would not be one member over there. The member for Warrego had a remarkable lack of judgement when she was appointed to this House. Having been admonished by the Speaker at the time, she still sits there behind the opposition leader as a shadow minister. If you want to apply integrity and ethics to parliament then I suggest you look in your own backyard.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you will put your comments through the chair.

Ms GRACE: I suggest that those opposite look in their own backyard. I suggest that the Leader of the Opposition turn around and have a look in her own backyard.

I will not support a motion that asks for no confidence in the Deputy Premier or for the Deputy Premier to be sacked because of the lynch mob mentality of those opposite. When it comes to delivering for Queensland in education alone, this Deputy Premier, this Treasurer, has delivered record funding for education for every child in this state. She is putting on an extra 1,000 teachers. We have a record \$13.8 billion budget. We have a record \$1.58 billion infrastructure spend. In addition to that, we have \$100 million for the non-government sector. We have an infrastructure spend that has never been seen before in this state. They expect this side of the House to support a no confidence motion. It is utter rubbish. We will not be supporting the lynch mob mentality of those opposite.

If we go to the findings of the CCC, which are always selectively quoted by those opposite—I will quote what it says verbatim.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms GRACE: You can say it one way; I will say it another way. The CCC's determination stated—

... no evidence or information was identified that supported a reasonable suspicion of corrupt conduct ... The CCC's assessment did not identify evidence or information suggesting a criminal offence had been committed.

It goes even further.

Mr Mander: So why the recommendations?

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton, you have had a go.

Ms GRACE: I will take that interjection by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for one reason only: because the recommendations go to intent. If the shadow Attorney-General or the Leader of the Opposition do not understand, the recommendations clearly deal with intent. The Deputy Premier has accepted that she made a mistake, but there was no intent and there have been no findings after a thorough assessment. To come in here and move a no-confidence motion demanding that somebody be sacked is absolutely disgraceful and does nothing for the processes in this state or the respect for the CCC.

We know they have no respect, because when they were in government I never witnessed in all my years of being involved in politics a more arrogant, drunk-on-power government. It only lasted for three years and the people of Queensland threw them out. The interesting thing is that they are displaying exactly the same body language as they did back then. They will come back in—

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mermaid Beach!

Ms GRACE:—and they will be exactly as they were. The CCC also found that no evidence was identified during its assessment—and they looked at every document available to it—to raise a reasonable suspicion—the shadow Attorney-General should understand that terminology—that the non-disclosure of the conflict of interest was for any dishonest or corrupt reason; furthermore, no evidence of corruption or dishonesty was found. It is cut and dried. To sack somebody and move a no-confidence motion based on that finding is nothing but arrogant and out of touch.

Mr Krause interjected.

Ms GRACE: This is nothing but a lynch mob mentality from an opposition that is not fit to govern, not fit to respect the institutions of this state and not fit to ever occupy this side of the House.