




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 30 April 2019

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Member for Maryborough

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.26 pm): At the last sittings the member for Maryborough attacked the member for Hervey Bay. This attack was unjustified on the member for Hervey Bay, who this year is celebrating 10 years as representative of the good people of the Hervey-Wide Bay region. We know that the member for Hervey Bay has given not only the past 10 years but also many more years as a former great mayor for that region. He is a decent, honest and hardworking man. Long may his service continue. I back the decency, integrity and honesty of the member for Hervey Bay over the member for Maryborough any day of the week.

If you want to run for public office, you need to run on your record. Today I want to detail some concerning and alarming allegations that have been made against the member for Maryborough and his office staffer Mr Paul Freyer, an employee of the member for Maryborough. Allegations have been raised with my office concerning Ms Carolyn Packer. She alleges that the staff member of the member for Maryborough assaulted her in 2017 at the Maryborough RSL. She further alleges that in November 2017 at a town hall meeting the member for Maryborough himself pulled the shirt of Ms Packer and said some very unpleasant things. In a letter Ms Carolyn Packer states—

... at the Maryborough Town Hall about 7.30pm, I was walking between chairs to leave the meeting with a friend.

Mr SAUNDERS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This has been thoroughly investigated by the QPS. I take offence at the comments by the member for Kawana. I ask him to say it outside the House.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Member for Maryborough, the first part of your point of order is not a point of order. If you take personal offence, you are able to ask the member to withdraw the comments.

Mr SAUNDERS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I take your guidance. I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. The letter, which I will table, goes on to say—

As I passed, Bruce pulled on my shirt and said “you’re supporting grubs, their nothing then a pack of grubs and you’re supporting grubs”, your grub.

I replied the only grub is Paul Freyer who assaulted me and you did nothing to sort out the problem ...

I table the letter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence, dated 26 November 2017, from Ms Carolyn Packer to State Secretary of the Australian Labor Party, Mr Evan Moorhead, regarding an incident involving the member for Maryborough, Mr Bruce Saunders MP [650](#).

Further, a letter to the Premier—the Premier is implicit in this—from Ms Carolyn Packer—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry to interrupt, member, but I have just been advised that the term ‘grub’ is unparliamentary, so I ask that you withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: It does not matter that it is in a quote. The member has withdrawn, and I do not need your advice.

Mr BLEIJIE: The letter to the Premier from Ms Carolyn Packer says that she wants to—

... finally bring to light, the culture of bullies within your ALP party?

I table a copy of that correspondence.

Tabled paper: Bundle of correspondence from Ms Carolyn Packer regarding a matter involving the office of the member for Maryborough, Mr Bruce Saunders MP [651](#).

There are also allegations that the member for Maryborough has sent letters from Labor lawyers threatening to sue his constituents for defamation. There are also allegations that Paul Freyer, his staff member, has sent letters to constituents threatening to sue. How many constituents is the member for Maryborough or his staff suing for defamation? There is also correspondence, which I will table, such as emails to the member for Sandgate and emails to Evan Moorhead working for the Premier of Queensland detailing these serious allegations.

What did they do? They knew everything but did not act. Do members recall Rick Williams? The Premier never acted on Rick Williams. That is because there is a bullying culture and cover up and intimidation in the Labor Party. What would we expect when the member for Maryborough himself said, and I quote from the *Fraser Coast Chronicle*—

I'm proud to be a union bloody thug,' Mr Saunders told the crowd.

'I'm a proud union thug.' That is what the member for Maryborough said. I table the article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Fraser Coast Chronicle*, dated 30 April 2017, titled 'Bruce Saunders: I'm proud to be a union thug' [652](#).

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry, member, but the terms that you are using are unparliamentary, regardless of whether they are in a quote. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. Ms Carolyn Packer then went to the police to RTI the CCTV footage where she is alleging that Mr Paul Freyer assaulted her at the RSL, with the police refusing to release the five videos from the RSL. I table a copy of the RTI documents.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 19 June 2018, from Queensland Police Service, Senior Sergeant M McGhie, to Ms Carolyn Packer regarding an application under the Right to Information Act [653](#).

Thankfully, the RSL wrote to Ms Carolyn Packer in a letter dated 31 October 2018 confirming that 'there was noticeable contact between yourself and a gentleman also attending the function'. I table that letter.

Tabled paper: Photograph of letter, dated 31 October 2018, from the General Manager of the Maryborough RSL, Mr Craig Lenihan, to Ms Carolyn Packer regarding an incident between Ms Packer and a gentleman at a function held at the RSL club [654](#).

I also want to say for the record that the candidate for the Labor Party in the Wide Bay area, Mr Jason Scanes, is involved in this as well. It has been alleged that Jason Scanes's actions were to cover up the alleged assault by the employee of Bruce Saunders against a woman at the RSL. Jason refused to release the CCTV footage. He was the CEO of the RSL at the time. He is now the Labor Party candidate for the Wide Bay area running against Llew O'Brien. He is the gentleman—if you could call him that—who refused to release the CCTV footage alleging that the staff member of the member for Maryborough assaulted Ms Carolyn Packer. Violence against women has no place in our society. We must stand up and say that this has no place in our country. Jason Scanes has chosen not to stand up against violence, choosing instead to cover up for a Labor mate.

In Jason's biography for the Labor Party website he claims that he wants to make a real difference for the community. Given his failure to do the right thing for Carolyn Packer, how can the people of Wide Bay trust him to do the right thing in office? I urge the people of Wide Bay to demand better than Jason Scanes on 18 May. Do not vote for someone who will not stand up for violence against women. Everyone in this House should say that we do not support thugs. We do not want thugs in this parliament, and I say this to the member for Maryborough, a self-confessed thug: you are not welcome in this parliament!