



Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2019

**MOTION**

**Labour Movement**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.07 pm): Let's call this what it is. This is nothing more than a motion during a federal election campaign to ensure that donations from the union movement flow to the federal election for the next 2½ weeks. That is all this is. This motion is nothing more than paying their union masters and the Queensland parliament doing the unions' bidding. No doubt former AWU official Bill Shorten—who ripped \$100,000 off workers in the cleaning industry—would have rung up his mates in this Labor government and said, 'We need more donations in Queensland. The funds have stopped flowing.'

Why have funds stopped flowing in Queensland for the Labor Party? Because of the Carmichael mine that Labor will not back. The CFMMEU are on a different course to the Labor government in Queensland. Funding from the CFMMEU—who would usually be rolling out the red carpet and throwing money to the Labor government—has stopped because the North Queensland members of parliament of the Labor Party will not sign the pledge to support the Carmichael mine. So Billy gets on the phone to the union paymasters and says, 'In 2½ weeks time there's a federal election. We need money to roll in.' Today's motion will be debated and then the phone calls will start to the union movement which all preselected the members opposite. 'We made the speech. This is what we did.' Copies of the speech will be in gold-plated frames for union heavyweights.

If the minister wants to talk about black lung, it was the LNP who first called for a royal commission into black lung disease. Then the government set up the committee and the member for Bundamba did a stellar job on that committee, as did the former member for Southern Downs, Lawrence Springborg. One of the committee's recommendations was to table a piece of legislation. Where is that piece of legislation now? Where are the legislative reforms? Where are all of the recommendations? Where is the mine safety authority based in Mackay that it recommended? It was rejected by the Labor Party.

At the time the CFMMEU asked that the member for Stafford resign or be sacked by the Premier after his insensitive and inadequate response to the Queensland government inquiry into black lung disease. This is nothing more than a motion moved by the minister who is a former QCU general secretary—

**Ms Grace:** And proud of it.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection—and always doing union bidding in the parliament. The minister talks about the royal commission into union corruption. Elements of corruption were found and recommendations were made to the state government. Has this state government introduced any of them? No. There were specific recommendations for the Queensland state Labor government to introduce after the royal commission, but the answer was no.

I say to the minister that the next royal commission Queensland should have is into her own department and into Workplace Health and Safety—people like Helen Burgess and other Workplace Health and Safety directors who are deliberately targeting organisations such as Enco Precast. Information has been provided to us that police officers have been told, or suggested, to attend various practices and turn a blind eye to CFMMEU thuggery and behaviour. If that is what is happening—

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stevens): Order! Member for McConnel, you have had your turn to speak. You have repeatedly interjected. You will cease your interjections or a warning will be forthcoming.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** If there has been external influence on the Queensland Police Service to do or not do certain jobs on construction sites or not act against the CFMMEU, that is alarming and it should be fully investigated.

I am not satisfied that the Crime and Corruption Commission in Queensland is not investigating the minister's own industrial relations department. Serious accusations of corruption have been levelled against the like of Helen Burgess. The CCC has outsourced to a Sydney HR company to investigate them. The minister's department is under investigation by an external stakeholder in Sydney. The CCC wrote to me about that. I wrote to that agency and asked them what powers of compulsion they have—whether they can get the telephone records of Helen Burgess or text messages Helen Burgess may or may not have sent to the CFMMEU. They have not responded because, of course, they do not have those powers. The only way to fully investigate what is happening in the department of industrial relations and the cosy relationship the CFMMEU has with that department and certain officials is perhaps a full royal commission—into the CFMMEU and its relationship with the Palaszczuk Labor government and into the deals that are done with the union to get legislation through. If you look at the real-time disclosure results for the last two weeks, you will see that all of the money is coming from the union movement to the Labor Party.

*(Time expired)*