




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 20 August 2019

MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.27 pm): The Premier's integrity and the government's integrity are in complete tatters. When the *Courier-Mail* ran this photograph of the Deputy Premier and Treasurer pointing at Cross River Rail, little did we know that at that time the Deputy Premier was actually pointing out her new house purchase to the Premier. I table that for the benefit of honourable members.

Tabled paper: Photograph depicting the Premier and Minister for Trade, Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, and the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Hon. Jackie Trad [1285](#).

'Which one?' 'Oh, that one.' 'Yes, there would be a good uplift in value on that one,' she would have said at the time. When we look at this integrity scandal it is important to look at the history of what has gone on in terms of the flip-flopping and the changing of the story each day by the Deputy Premier. The facts are these.

On 27 March a contract was signed for the sale of 48 Abingdon Street by the VB Family Trust—formerly known as 'Tradster Pty Ltd', I might add. On 29 March there was a CBRC meeting. What was discussed at that CBRC meeting? Was Cross River Rail on the agenda? Who knows? On 4 April 2019 the Cross River Rail contracts were announced. A week later the contract to purchase this little investment property was signed by the Deputy Premier. On 1 May the property at Abingdon Street settled and was registered with the Land Titles Office. On 18 July the *Courier-Mail* published an article with the first public details about the purchase of the property.

The Deputy Premier's excuse at the time was that she had spent months seeking advice from the Clerk. If the advice took months, how is it that all of these complexities of the property were able to be in the pecuniary register within half an hour of it reaching the front page of the *Courier-Mail*? That is very intriguing. Methinks the Deputy Premier spent five months finding out how to avoid putting this house on the pecuniary register.

The Integrity Commissioner gave advice on 19 July to the Deputy Premier. The Deputy Premier undertook to sell the house in the media. She tweeted on 19 July—

Today I received advice from the Integrity Commissioner, and will continue to do so.

In order to remove any doubt, I will sell the property at the same price it was purchased for.

That was on 19 July at 4.58 in a tweet the Deputy Premier sent out. She then said she asked for further advice. On 21 July, which was a Sunday, the Deputy Premier referred herself to the CCC. She said to the CCC chairperson—who said he was in his trackie daks and putting Ikea furniture together on that Sunday when he answered his mobile phone—that she just wanted to make it abundantly clear that she did not intend to interfere with the CCC investigation. Wouldn't that be obvious? Then we just happened to have this file note that answers the five main questions the journalists had been asking over the last two weeks of this integrity scandal.

An opposition member: Nice and neat too.

Mr BLEIJIE: It was a nice and neat file note that just happened to answer the questions. Why on earth would you ring the CCC chair and say, 'It's not my intention to interfere with your independent investigation,' if you have nothing to hide? That was on the 21st. On the 22nd, the Deputy Premier issued another statement by Twitter. She said—

Over the last week, a lot has been said and a lot of allegations have been made about a Woolloongabba property my husband purchased.

Originally, she did not know about it, then her husband purchased it but she still did not know about it, then she advised that she got a \$700,000 text message about it. Then she put out a statement on Twitter that afternoon where she said—

I made clear my intention to sell the property when the outcome of the CCC consideration is known.

No, she did not. The Deputy Premier tweeted three days before that saying, 'I will sell the house because I've got Integrity Commissioner advice to sell the house.' The CCC was not involved on 19 July. The problem is that the story changes each day with the Deputy Premier.

Then of course at estimates we heard that the Deputy Premier was putting out press releases very enthusiastically about the new inner-city state school in her own electorate just down the road from the house she purchased at Abingdon, which just happens to be in the catchment area for the new school. Guess what? The CBRC approved the school a month after the Deputy Premier's investment company had signed the contract for the purchase. The education minister did not even show up at the CBRC meeting, nor did the Department of Education. The Deputy Premier and Treasurer signed off on the school in her own meeting with the Premier and failed to declare the conflict of interest that she had a house in the catchment area. That is what we are seeing.

Let us not forget that the company linked to the Deputy Premier's husband received \$5.4 million in legal fees in the 2018-19 period for workers compensation. Let us not forget the skiing holiday and the sponsored accommodation the Deputy Premier took with the member for Waterford. The best one was Minister Dick saying, 'Let's just see what happens in a few days.' We know what he wants. We know what job he wants.

(Time expired)