




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 18 September 2019

MOTION

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

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (5.53 pm): We only need to look at the list of speakers today to see the company with which the Deputy Premier surrounds herself. The member for Woodridge kicked it off. Of course, who could forget that the member for Woodridge was under investigation because he split SPER debt payments into two to try to cover up one of the payments to ensure the debt did not look as big as it actually was? The same guy, because he was scared, put a digital lock on his door so that his department officials could not get into his office! What about the member for Murrumba's biggest, dodgiest poll to change the name of the Lady Cilento hospital? He got up and defended the Deputy Premier. Of course, then the member for McConnell said last year in this place that she had nothing to do with the Queensland Council of Unions' program involving union indoctrination in Queensland schools. It turns out a senior policy adviser helped draft the program for the QCU! The company the Deputy Premier has around her is testament to why that mob, the backbench, does not want her in that position anymore.

The minister who just spoke said that she has not been asked a question. The reason is that the opposition believe in integrity and accountability. The longer the Deputy Premier is in that position and in that chair, the more distraction she will be for the government. The government will not be able to get its agenda on the go, because the Deputy Premier is a distraction. Every member opposite knows that she should go, she should resign.

The member for McConnell said that we were selectively quoting from the Crime and Corruption Commission findings. The CCC's recommendation 3 states—

Parliament create a criminal offence for occasions when a member of Cabinet does not declare a conflict that does, or may conflict, with their ability to discharge their responsibilities.

This is a criminal offence. Recommendation 4 states—

That Parliament create a criminal offence to apply when a member of Cabinet fails to comply with the requirements of the Register of Members' Interests ...

That is what the CCC said. I table a copy of that. I table a copy of both Integrity Commissioner advices received by the Deputy Premier.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 19 July 2019, from the Queensland Integrity Commissioner, Dr Nikola Stepanov, to the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Hon. Jackie Trad, regarding the recent purchase of a property in Woolloongabba [\[1520\]](#).

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 20 July 2019, from the Queensland Integrity Commissioner, Dr Nikola Stepanov, to the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Hon. Jackie Trad, regarding the recent purchase of a property in Woolloongabba [\[1521\]](#).

The question remains: where are the letters, emails and telephone notes from the Deputy Premier to the Integrity Commissioner? That is what is missing in this equation. If we go to the advice the Integrity Commissioner clearly said—

I am of the view that a conflict of interest will arise in relation to the Woolloongabba property.

Did the Deputy Premier disclose that conflict or perceived conflict to cabinet? No. Did the Deputy Premier disclose the conflict to the CBRC? No, she did not. In the Integrity Commissioner advice under the code of conduct, the Deputy Premier had an obligation to advise the Premier of any conflict of interest. The Premier said that the first she knew about the purchase of the Woolloongabba property was when she saw a press release in the *Courier-Mail*.

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption Commission media release, dated 6 September 2019, titled 'CCC determines not to investigate the Deputy Premier but calls for improvements to Cabinet processes and legislative reform—6 September 2019' [1522].

That means that the Deputy Premier sat next to the Premier in cabinet and at CBRC and spoke positively about Cross River Rail and the inner-city school but did not disclose the conflict to her boss sitting next to her.

The Crime and Corruption Commission findings also say that the Deputy Premier did not dispute the fact that she did not make the declaration as required. What was her punishment? Nothing. She lost Cross River Rail, which she voluntarily gave up two weeks earlier—same pay, less work. That is the punishment.

Mr Mander: And promoted.

Mr BLEIJIE: And promoted to Acting Premier the next day! The Deputy Premier's colleagues want to talk about donations. I will never forget the day the Deputy Premier signed off on a \$1,200 donation from corrupt Eddie Obeid. Some \$1,200 signed by Jackie Trad, Australian Labor Party, State of Queensland. I table a copy of that.

Tabled paper: Australian Electoral Commission, Political Party Disclosure return for financial year 2008-09, by the Australian Labor Party, Queensland [1523].

Who could ever forget a \$5,000 donation by Obeid Corporate, signed by Jackie Trad on behalf of the Labor Party?

Tabled paper: Australian Electoral Commission, Political Party Disclosure return for financial year 2010-11, by the Australian Labor Party, Queensland [1524].

Did they ever pay back the money from that corrupt individual? I doubt it. There is only one answer to this integrity crisis: for the Premier to sack the Treasurer and Deputy Premier and restore accountability to government.

(Time expired)