




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 22 October 2019

MOTION

Premier and Minister for Trade, Finding of Contempt

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.47 am): The opposition will be supporting the motion moved by the Leader of the House and recommended by the Ethics Committee. I say at the outset that the honourable opposition leader was one of the first to call out the comments made by then senator Fraser Anning. I congratulate her for that. I agree with the Leader of the House that we live in a multicultural society and that those comments should be condemned, as they were by the Leader of the Opposition.

That is not the subject of debate today. It was that those comments led the Premier, using parliament as her political plaything, to choose to do what she did because she was the Premier of the state. She threatened to withdraw funding. The Ethics Committee has handed down its report today. Make no mistake, the Ethics Committee is made up of members from both sides of parliament—Labor and Liberal National Party members. It handed down a unanimous resolution that the Premier be found in contempt of parliament because of her actions. It is the actions of the Premier that should be called into question—and not just on this issue. The Leader of the House talks about the character test. The Premier has failed the character test in her five-year premiership. We have had integrity scandal after integrity scandal.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for State Development and Minister for Transport and Main Roads, your comments will come through the chair.

Mr BLEIJIE: The government wants to talk about character. We have had integrity crisis after integrity crisis of this government and of this Premier's own making. Let us not forget that it all started when Minister Bailey used the mangocube email account. There was an inquiry by the Crime and Corruption Commission. The Crime and Corruption Commission called him a fool. Do members remember that? Then we had ministers resign and we had ministers forced to resign. We also had in the last few months the Deputy Premier engulfed in her own integrity scandal from which I can tell the Deputy Premier she will never recover. Her integrity is in tatters. She will never, ever recover from that integrity crisis. So arrogant is the Deputy Premier that she could not bring herself to—

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Clearly the member is way off the topic of this motion. I ask him to come back to the subject.

Mr SPEAKER: I agree with the point of order. I think you need to come back to the motion as it is written, member. I will give you some latitude to do that.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. In responding to the comments of the Leader of the House, the integrity of the Premier and the character of the Premier goes to the heart of this motion—and it is about leadership. To me this is about leadership. If there were true leadership in the Labor Party in

Queensland, we would not have come to this position of an Ethics Committee referral and we would not have come to this position today where we are debating, for the first time that I can recall, a Premier being found in contempt of parliament.

This is serious. It is so serious that I agree with the Leader of the House: it is all about character and integrity. The Premier ought to consider her position because she has overseen in the last five years crisis after crisis of her own integrity. The Premier failed to act on those scandals. She then believed that she had the right to simply take and give as she chose with respect to taxpayers' money for the crossbenchers. Who knows whether that was then going to extend to the opposition office, which is under Ministerial Services. Who would know what this Premier may have done if she had got away with it. That is concerning, and it should be of concern to all members of the House.

If we look at the motion moved by the Leader of the House and the recommendation from the Ethics Committee on page 22, we see that the conclusion of the Ethics Committee is that the actions of the Premier 'amounted to an improper interference with the free performance by the KAP members of the members' duties as members'. Then it goes on to make various recommendations that the Premier has been found in contempt and should apologise, which she has done.

Recommendation 2 in the committee's report makes a further recommendation about the PCCC—and I want to touch on this point particularly. I have been concerned that the Crime and Corruption Commission, after doing a series of important investigations, is simply putting out press releases and making its determinations by press release. I think it is time, as this recommendation says, that the Crime and Corruption Commission put out proper reports on these important issues and not be issuing decisions by press release, as has been the norm now for the last five years, and I do not think that is right. I support recommendation 2 of the Ethics Committee investigation.

The Premier should not have done what she did. She has rightfully been found in contempt of the parliament. This is about leadership. Today, the Premier ought to be considering her position in government and in the state.

(Time expired)