




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 28 November 2019

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

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

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.00 pm): The Deputy Premier thinks she is above the rules. She thinks she is above the law. She treats the Queensland government and her electorate of South Brisbane like her own fiefdom. This is yet another integrity scandal by the Deputy Premier. The Premier is too weak to act on the Deputy Premier. We know the Deputy Premier is in charge every day of the week. Never before has a member of parliament interfered in the process of the appointment of a school principal—never before—and never should it ever happen again. It is an unprecedented corruption of the process of the selection of a school principal.

Today I have written to the Crime and Corruption Commission and I say to the Deputy Premier, 'Let's do this properly this time. Don't ring the Crime and Corruption Commission chair. Keep your phone at home. Do not ring the chair. Do not ring the Crime and Corruption Commission.' The Deputy Premier has become a frequent flyer at the Crime and Corruption Commission. She is a gold card member and on a first name basis with the chair, I might add. The Crime and Corruption Commission need to fully investigate this matter. The allegations would amount to official misconduct under the Criminal Code.

I am also calling on the Crime and Corruption Commission not to devolve the investigation back to the Department of Education. The director-general and the senior departmental officials have allowed the Deputy Premier to become part of what should be an independent selection process. Members of parliament have no right to veto local principals who have been independently selected by selection panels, but the Deputy Premier thinks she has that right. The Deputy Premier thinks she is above everybody in this House. I have had Labor members on the other side of the chamber in the last 24 hours tell me they have never, ever had any communication with the Department of Education about the selection of their local principals. They would not do that because it is inappropriate for members of parliament to be involved in the selection of local principals. It corrupts the process and the system.

Agreeing to the meeting shows how arrogant the Deputy Premier is. It shows she continually misjudges integrity issues in this state. Why was the Department of Education offering the Deputy Premier an exclusive look at the successful candidate to see what the Deputy Premier thought about the successful candidate? There are so many questions unanswered here. The director-general issued a statement this morning. He failed to mention in the statement the second meeting, the second phone call, the Deputy Premier had with ultimately the successful candidate. There are so many more questions to answer. The Deputy Premier thinks she is above the law. She thinks she is above everybody in this place and she should not be.