




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 22 October 2019

MOTION

Non-Government Members, Resources

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (3.29 pm): Thirty years ago Tony Fitzgerald handed down his watershed report and asked us all to remain eternally vigilant so that history would never repeat itself. We on this side of the House are absolutely committed to upholding its values and maintain a strong commitment to accountability and transparency in government. That is why we are supporting this motion today.

Ethics Committee report No. 189, handed down earlier today, found that there was a lack of regulation and scrutiny afforded by the discretionary way that additional parliamentary resources are provided to the crossbench and that it was problematic. That is why we are supporting the intent of this motion as it relates to the resources provided to the crossbench. In response to the questions raised by the member for Kawana, I can confirm that there will be no change to opposition resources and that we support this motion as it relates to the resources provided to the crossbench.

The Premier this morning stood in this place and accepted the findings of the Ethics Committee and unreservedly apologised to the House. As has been said a number of times today, this is a premier who always conducts herself with the utmost integrity. In fact, the Ethics Committee noted in its report that she believed that putting legitimate pressure on others to condemn hate speech was in the public interest. Let us not forget where this started: the appalling actions of Fraser Anning calling for a final solution on immigration. This is a premier who stays true to her values and stands up for all Queenslanders. I am proud to serve in a government with the Premier and my colleagues who believe that all Queenslanders belong here regardless of faith, race or cultural background. I am also very proud to serve in a government that believes in and acts in accordance with the Fitzgerald legacy of transparency and accountability in government.

Let us not forget about the LNP's track record when it comes to resourcing of non-government members. Let us remember how the LNP treated the then Labor opposition when it was in government. When Campbell Newman was premier and the member for Nanango was his proud apprentice, they kicked the opposition out of the parliamentary opposition offices, forcing members and staff to book meeting rooms so they could work. They were working with their own personal laptops and phones. This was a government that removed internet access and phones from opposition staff. It was not just the opposition. Of course, who can forget that they also kicked the media out of this place when they were in government? They condensed the usual two-week-long estimates process into two days, stretching opposition members to the limit and preventing proper scrutiny. How dare they go on about integrity!

Let us not forget what Tony Fitzgerald said about the Newman government, warning that it would be 'sheer folly' to vote for a political party that refuses to accept that there are limits on the proper exercise of democratic power. He went on to say that the Newman government had 'flaunted its disdain

for democracy and good governance' by attacking the independence of the judiciary and the state's Crime and Misconduct Commission. We on this side of the House are absolutely proud to uphold the principles of Fitzgerald. That is why we are supporting this motion today.