




Speech By
Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

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

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (2.37 pm): The integrity crisis gripping the Palaszczuk Labor government gets murkier and murkier with each passing day. Indeed, it really is a tangled web the democratic socialists have been weaving. There are still a number of unanswered questions about the location of the Cross River Rail stations and what influence the Deputy Premier exerted about the selection of the Boggo Road station site.

Initially, it was revealed that the Deputy Premier failed to declare a \$695,000 investment property just hundreds of metres away from the Boggo Road station. The purchase of this property occurred just one day after the Deputy Premier's meeting with the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority. That was on 26 March, which was a few months ago. On 1 April the Deputy Premier met again with the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority. Had she disclosed the house? No. On 2 April this year, the Deputy Premier again met with the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority but this time with the Premier. Had she declared the house? No. On 3 April, the Cabinet Budget Review Committee met and approved the Cross River Rail preferred proponent. At this stage, was the house declared? No. Then on 4 April the public announcement about the Cross River Rail project was made. Again, was the house declared? No.

Why is this so fundamentally important? Not only should the \$695,000 investment house have been declared by the Deputy Premier to meet her obligations under the ministerial code of conduct, the Cabinet Handbook and parliamentary standing orders; there are still some serious questions about the decisions made in relation to the project that benefit the Deputy Premier's investment property. It was revealed by Steven Wardill, state affairs editor for the *Courier-Mail*, on 24 July that one of the consortiums short listed for the Cross River Rail project did not include a station at Boggo Road, near the controversial property purchased by Jackie Trad, in its proposal. I quote from that article on—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Pause the clock. Member for Chatsworth, can you refer to members by their correct title, please.

Mr MINNIKIN: Certainly, Mr Deputy Speaker. I quote from an article in the *Courier-Mail* on 24 July. It states—

The revelation contradicts Ms Trad's claims that Cross River Rail's route—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock again. Refer to members by their correct title, either Deputy Premier or the member for—

Mr MINNIKIN: I will add to the quote then. It states—

The revelation contradicts—
the Deputy Premier—

Ms Trad's claims that Cross River Rail's route had been decided and public knowledge for years and any investor could have speculated on property near the planned development.

Steven Wardill uncovered sources close to the bid team that said the station would have been known as 'new Dutton', positioned on the other side of the rail corridor and would have resolved some of the technical issues. However, the proposal was rejected by the Palaszczuk Labor government despite being similar in price to rival bids and supported by the Cross River Rail authority. Then a further bombshell was delivered when the consortium chosen to construct Queensland's biggest infrastructure project advised against the proposed Boggo Road station because of significant extra costs and technical concerns. The article headline said it all: 'Cross River Rail: unwanted station to boost value of—the Deputy Premier—'Trad house'. The *Courier-Mail* went on to state—

It's the Cross River Rail station planners didn't want—and it will benefit the investment property purchased by Treasurer Jackie Trad.

It seems the only person who did not want the station moved was the Deputy Premier. She has not explained the station location but potentially she could have personally benefited from this decision, given her secret investment property is just hundreds of metres away. Whilst she has stated that she will sell the investment property, this does not pass the pub test. The Palaszczuk Labor government has failed to answer questions about the station location, hiding behind cabinet discussions. However, we know those cabinet discussions were possibly compromised by the member for South Brisbane's failure to declare up-front her secret investment property.

Just to show how absurd the situation is, we now have Minister Mark Bailey, the Labor member whom Alan MacSporran described as 'very foolish' after the investigation into his mangocube saga, involved in the state's largest infrastructure project. Talk about putting the fox in charge of the henhouse! Now the CCC described 'foolish' member for Miller is in charge of the state's largest infrastructure project because of an integrity scandal engulfing his factional leader whom many would describe as the real leader of the Palaszczuk government.

It is time indeed for this weak Premier to finally show some leadership, backbone and some mettle and to sack the absolute incompetent member for South Brisbane, the Deputy Premier.