



Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 18 September 2019

MOTION

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

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.00 pm): I move—

That this House—

- (a) notes the Deputy Premier failed to disclose on the Members' Register of Interests the purchase of an investment property pursuant to section 69B of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 and the standing orders of this House;
- (b) notes the Crime and Corruption Commission's finding that the Deputy Premier did not declare any actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest when participating in the Cabinet Budget Review Committee decisions concerning Cross River Rail and the Inner City South State Secondary College;
- (c) notes the Crime and Corruption Commission finding 'The statement of interest issue and conflicts of interest issue are matters for the parliament';
- (d) notes the Fitzgerald inquiry reported, 'The financial interests of any Parliamentarian or person in authority are of public significance. Such interests can result in conflicts between public duty and private interest ... The significance, power and influence of high public office requires that accountability mechanisms be effective';
- (e) resolves that the Deputy Premier's conduct has fallen short of the ethical standard expected by Queenslanders of any person holding high public office;
- (f) expresses no confidence in the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships; and
- (g) calls on the Premier to immediately sack the member for South Brisbane from cabinet.

This motion sets out the litany of errors, misjudgements and questionable behaviour by the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. The motion outlines issues that have been discussed quite widely over the last two months, starting at the estimates hearing and going through to today. Every day something else has been revealed about the Deputy Premier's behaviour and her integrity issues.

The Deputy Premier came in yesterday and offered an excuse for this type of behaviour occurring. Her excuse was that she is very, very busy with all the different roles she has, and particularly her political role. I am not too sure whether the Deputy Premier has realised that she is Deputy Premier and Treasurer and that she does get paid \$350,000 or thereabouts a year to carry out these duties in the way the Queensland public would expect.

It is interesting to look at what her busyness has led to. The Deputy Premier has been so busy that she forgot to declare the purchase of the property at Woolloongabba. I think it was at least five months after the purchase that she declared it. Her busyness caused that. Her busyness also caused her to change her story a number of times in terms of whether she knew about the purchase or she did not know about the purchase. 'I did not know about the purchase initially,' she said. Then she said, 'Hang on. My husband bought it, but it had nothing to do with me.' Then she said, 'Hang on. I am a co-director of the company that bought the property.' Then it was, 'Hang on. I was advised by text message a couple of days after it happened.'

Her busyness also caused her not to declare any real or perceived conflict of interest during the cabinet discussions and CBRC discussions about both Cross River Rail and the Inner City South State Secondary College. The Deputy Premier obviously has an issue with busyness. I suppose she would be very happy that some of that busyness has been relieved by the Premier taking responsibility for Cross River Rail away from her. I am not too sure what time that took up in the past, whether it was 10 per cent of her time or 20 per cent of her time. She will have a lot more time now to deal with issues around her memory and failing to fulfil her obligations.

She was not too busy on a Sunday afternoon to ring the CCC chair on her personal mobile phone, which she would have looked him up very quickly—'I have his personal mobile number and I will ring the CCC chair on a Sunday afternoon to talk about the fact that I will cooperate fully with the CCC investigation.' It is funny that this busyness is selective with regard with her ability to do her job. It is selective busyness.

Mr Powell: See-through busyness.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the member for Glass House. We cannot discuss the issues around her omissions and failure to fulfil her obligations without discussing the role of the Premier in all of this. As has been discussed previously, the only reason legislation will be brought into this House to ensure that ministers fulfil their legal obligations and their moral obligations to this parliament is due to the weakness and inability of this Premier. This Premier lacks any authority whatsoever to bring her ministers into line. We have seen it time and time again. We saw it with the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. We are now seeing it clearer than ever with the Treasurer and Deputy Premier.

There is no reason this parliament should deal with this type of legislation. It is unnecessary when we look at the regulations, the protocols, the principles of standing orders—

Mr Nicholls: Conventions.

Mr MANDER: The conventions. I take the interjection from the member for Clayfield. The only reason legislation is coming in to moderate and regulate the behaviour of ministers of this government is the weakness of Anastacia Palaszczuk as Premier.