




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 20 May 2020

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Integrity

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.02 pm): I move—

That this House:

1. condemns Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk's failure to uphold basic standards of integrity, for example:
 - (a) the Premier's former chief of staff's company received \$267,500 from QIC;
 - (b) the member for South Brisbane:
 - (i) accepted a gift from a government consultant;
 - (ii) contacted the chair of the CCC during an assessment; and
 - (iii) is involved in a CCC investigation into an independent recruitment process;
 - (c) the Deputy Premier relied on a poll found by the CCC to lack transparency to claim a majority of Queenslanders supported changing the Lady Cilento name;
 - (d) the member for Miller and the mangocube affair;
 - (e) the member for Waterford belatedly declared a gift from a government consultant;
 - (f) the member for Capalaba made baseless allegations in a letter to the Speaker;
 - (g) a message from the member for Springwood in a QBCC email was found to breach government advertising standards;
 - (h) the member for McConnel promised air-conditioning for 300 schools over the Christmas break, then denied the promise;
 - (i) the member for Keppel promised to back a casino on GKI and voted against it in parliament;
 - (j) the member for Mansfield's involvement in a fraud investigation prior to election;
 - (k) the member for Mount Ommaney belatedly declared a new house;
 - (l) the police minister used the Pullen family to promote a policy that wouldn't apply to their son's killers;
 - (m) the member for Thuringowa's spat with TEL and the *Townsville Bulletin*; and
 - (n) the Premier being found in contempt of the Assembly.

The former deputy premier and the former treasurer recently reminded us that a week is a long time in politics. I think everyone in this House can agree with that. Given that, five years is a very, very, very long time in politics. When it comes to the Palaszczuk government, it is obvious that it is a government that sincerely lacks any form of integrity, openness and accountability.

I can remember a time from when the Premier was the opposition leader right through to when she became the Premier when she said she believed in open and transparent government. It is a shame that the Premier has determined not to keep her word on overseeing an open and transparent government, one that has the utmost and highest of integrity standards. We have seen debacle after debacle facing the Palaszczuk government, and that is an absolute embarrassment to the people of Queensland, who are suffering through a global pandemic.

At a time when a government should not have distractions, we have a Premier who has overseen some of the worst integrity scandals in decades and decades. What we have seen is the Premier of Queensland constantly distracted and passing on confused messaging. She is so distracted because they have a former deputy premier who is involved with multiple scandals that are before the CCC—and I will not touch on them. We have now seen the promotion of a minister to Deputy Premier who is facing his own integrity scandals in relation to a rigged poll around the name change of the Lady Cilento hospital. We know that the Labor integrity crisis continues day after day, and there is no indication that that will finish any time soon.

We know there is one reason the integrity scandals continue in Queensland today. That is because we have a Premier who has no power and she is too weak to handle the issues that are before her. When members from her own government are doing the wrong thing it is incumbent upon the Premier of the day and of the state to stand up to those members. We have seen the dithering around the former deputy premier. Time and time again we have seen Labor ministers and Labor members getting away with their behaviour. That should never ever have been tolerated by a leader in this state.

What I do know is that the people of Queensland do expect a higher level of integrity standards from their elected officials. The list of Palaszczuk government members included in the motion is so long that we could not fit it all within the 250 words. There were just not enough words—

Ms Boyd: You should have chosen your words better. You can redraft it. Ask for the Speaker's help.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I have no idea how that one got promoted. Seriously, I am more than happy to say this to the member opposite. I apologise for not mentioning every single Labor MP in the chamber who has been subjected to integrity scandals over the last five years. It would take me more than—

Ms Grace: That's misleading.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I understand why the education minister is so stressed, because the integrity scandals are also floating around with the Minister for Education—

Ms GRACE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That is overstepping the line. I take offence and I ask it to be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence to those comments. Will you withdraw, Leader of the Opposition?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw but—

Mr SPEAKER: No, please withdraw unconditionally.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. I should also mention the Premier's own unique contribution to Labor's integrity scandals. She was the first Premier in Australian political history to be found in contempt of parliament for using her powers and making threats against members of the crossbench.