



Speech By  
**Scott Stewart**


**MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 May 2020

**MOTION**

**Palaszczuk Labor Government, Integrity**

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (6.01 pm): I rise to oppose the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. Those opposite should hang their heads in shame. Those opposite have no plan for Queensland. In my younger days when I played footy, there were teams we played against that played dirty footy. Those teams had no discipline, no talent, no ticker and, generally, no teeth. They played the man and not the ball with cheap shots when the referee was not looking. Those opposite do not have the ticker and are only focused on smearing individual members of this House.

It is the Palaszczuk government which has spent the last five years cleaning up the mess of cheap shots on the workers like the doctors, nurses and teachers who were sacked under Campbell Newman. Of course, the current Leader of the Opposition was his apprentice as an assistant minister. As they say, those in glass houses should not throw stones. The member for Kawana has a very short memory.

While I have the opportunity, let us walk down the memory lane of some of those great hits. How can we forget the fiasco of the Newman LNP government's—or dare I say, the failed former attorney-general's—boot camp. I have been advised that the Auditor-General found a number of errors and issues with the failed boot camp system overseen by the worst attorney-general in the history of the state or, as some have called him, the 'Kmart Attorney-General', the member for Kawana.

This failed system saw money flying out the door for no real benefit. I refer to a *Courier-Mail* article by respected journalist Sarah Vogler on 9 April 2015 in reference to the Auditor-General's report into boot camps and then attorney-general Jarrod Bleijie's decision to overrule the independent selection panel's decision to award the contract for two boot camps. The article states—

The report also found no issues with the initial panel process and said the cost of the sentenced boot camp program had escalated from its initial budget of \$3 million to \$10 million.

"The documentation relating to the Attorney-General's decision to award contracts for the Fraser Coast and Lincoln Springs boot camps does not demonstrate that economy in procurement was achieved," the report states.

The article continues—

The evidence indicates that suitable, lower cost service providers were available.

"The lack of any other evidence to support the final position taken for these boot camps, itself a failure to adhere to the government's own documentation standards, serves to weaken accountability for these decisions.

"It ultimately leaves the process of awarding the two contracts open to accusations of favouritism which in the absence of a clear documentation trail cannot be readily rebutted."

But the report found Mr Bleijie—

the member for Kawana—

had the legal authority to enter into service agreement contracts.

In effect, a captain's pick. The article went on to state—

One of the providers selected by Mr Bleijie subsequently donated—

5½ thousand dollars—

to the LNP via a fundraising lunch, while the other was considered the tenth choice by the selection panel which said it did not have the experience to run such a camp.

Hardly independent now, was it? While on boot camps, let us not forget the member for Kawana's little taxpayer funded flight to visit one of those boot camps. We know that the member for Kawana has many similarities with the former federal member for Mackellar. They are both monarchists and they both love a good helicopter ride at taxpayers' expense. While I could spend all day talking about the member for Kawana's integrity, I end with two words—Tim Carmody.

As a former school principal, I have seen many fine leaders in my community and indeed in my schools over the years, both staff and students. When I see leaders, I see a person with a clear vision, compassion for their people and a resilience against adversity. I see those qualities in the leadership of the Premier of our state, Annastacia Palaszczuk. We are currently faced with a public health crisis and, in turn, an economic crisis, and we have a strong leader focused on what matters—that is, the people of Queensland. This motion should be read for what it is: a cheap political stunt by an opposition which has no discipline, no talent and no ticker. I oppose the motion.