



Speech By  
**Steve Minnikin**


**MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH**

---

Record of Proceedings, 20 May 2020

**MOTION**

**Palaszcuk Labor Government, Integrity**

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (5.45 pm): Leadership is not about your title; it is about your behaviour. I rise to support the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition as it highlights what a complete farce is the Premier's often stated mantra of 'my government will be open and accountable'. That comes from a state Premier who has the inglorious stigma of being the first Queensland Premier to be found guilty of contempt by the Ethics Committee and to have had to apologise to the parliament.

What a list of Labor incompetence and lack of integrity this motion outlines. It is a long but not very distinguished list of Labor members across the board and it fundamentally highlights that this lack of integrity is a direct consequence of continued infective leadership by the Premier herself. It has been a long-running joke that the member for South Brisbane, when she was the deputy premier, virtually ran the government and that the Premier was just a titular head. Most of these integrity issues could have been dealt with by strong and decisive leadership.

With any group there are always some individuals who stand out in particular. When it comes to a perceived lack of integrity and with reference to paragraph 1(d) of the motion, it is pretty hard to go past the history revisionist member for Miller, the transport and main roads minister. The member for Miller has a penchant for looking back at history, so let us do just that when it comes to his own perceived integrity issues. In September 2017, the CCC chairman, Mr MacSporran, described Mr Bailey as 'foolish' for his use and subsequent deletion of a private email account. It was injudicious to deactivate an account even if there was nothing to hide. Mr MacSporran said—

To behave that way you create a problem for yourself. So it's all self-inflicted and let's hope it won't happen again.

He further said—

It emphasises how foolish the behaviour is to use a private email account and then deactivate it.

In relation to the very issue of integrity, Mr MacSporran went on to state that Mr Bailey was incredibly lucky not to be facing criminal charges and he urged MPs to avoid using private email accounts, because they created the perception of corruption. Members would recall that the integrity saga was sparked after it was revealed that Minister Bailey deleted his private mangocube email account following reports that he was contacted at that address by the Electrical Trades Union over the merger of Energy Super and Victoria's Equisuper. In an official media release dated 22 September 2017, the CCC acknowledged that the timing of the deactivation of the private email account proximate to an RTI request raised questions about Minister Bailey's intentions at that time.

I will continue with perceived integrity issues. In March 2018, Minister Bailey came under fire again—yep, a bit like the member for South Brisbane, the gift that keeps on giving—after it was revealed that former ETU state secretary Peter Simpson sent executive Mark Algie's CV to the former energy minister for a government board role. The email, sent to Minister Bailey's personal account, came

almost two months after applications for the position closed. As we subsequently learned, Mr Algie was appointed to the \$60,000 a year job two weeks later. What is it with the genius member for Miller and his fascination with email?

Interestingly, as reported in the *Northern Daily Leader* on 13 March 2018, Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk said that she believed that the CV was already with the department of Treasury and that it came to cabinet. Premier Palaszczuk repeatedly refused to say if Mr Algie's CV was with the department of Treasury before applications for the position closed. The Premier also reiterated that she had no problem with Mr Bailey's refusal to release his private emails, which were obtained by the media through freedom of information requests. How is that for integrity perception? Talk about protected species! Integrity and Labor are like oil and water.

With reference to paragraph 1(n) of the motion, as previously stated, the Premier was forced to make an embarrassing apology after being found guilty of contempt of parliament. In terms of her integrity, we recall that the Ethics Committee examined the issue after Premier Palaszczuk was referred to it by Katter's Australian Party. The Ethics Committee report clarified that, while it was perfectly legal for Premier Palaszczuk to alter the KAP's funding agreement at any time, by tying the action to an ultimatum she directly sought to influence a sitting MP, which is a breach of law. The Ethics Committee also found that, while Premier Palaszczuk's initial response to the issue during question time in parliament was off the cuff and could be read as not fully binding, the Premier then doubled down on the matter, repeating her ultimatum later outside parliament. I end where I started: leadership is not about your title; it is about your behaviour.