




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Record of Proceedings, 20 May 2020

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Integrity

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (5.40 pm): We are in unprecedented times and what we do in this place matters. It has an impact on the lives of everyday Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk Labor government has demonstrated that our priorities lie with protecting the health and prosperity of Queenslanders. That will always be our focus.

Mr Speaker, in your ruling before the debate commenced, you reiterated that the value of a motion is judged by the House. On the measure of this motion before the House and how valuable it is to the state of Queensland at this point in time, I think it is entirely appropriate that it will be judged by this House because, in contrast to our focus on protecting the health and prosperity of Queenslanders, the Leader of the Opposition has used precious parliamentary time to air a list of grievances and petty, lame attacks. One would think that, if she was going to attack the Premier's integrity, as Roy and HG say, she might step into the hall of mirrors. Let us not forget that the Leader of the Opposition supported the Premier's actions that led to the contempt mentioned in paragraph 1(n) of the motion before the House. Let us not forget that the House unanimously accepted the Premier's apology.

Unlike the Leader of the Opposition, the Premier fights for Queenslanders. She has led Queensland as we have flattened the COVID-19 curve. She will lead Queensland as we smash the curve of unemployment. If it was not clear before, now it is absolutely clear: the Leader of the Opposition is not fit to govern. She has been missing in action since the COVID-19 pandemic began. She has no plan to get Queenslanders back to work. She does not even have a plan to get herself onto some glossy LNP brochures. Given those clear deficiencies in her leadership, I can almost understand why the Leader of the Opposition might want to use a motion like this to distract us from her shortcomings. It almost makes sense—almost. However, the Leader of the Opposition should heed this phrase: those in glass houses should not throw stones. We heard some aphorisms from those on the other side, so that is one for everyone to take on board.

If the Leader of the Opposition wants to reflect on integrity, she is wading into some muddy LNP waters. When those opposite were last in government, one of their first acts was to water down Queensland's donation disclosure laws, allowing donations under \$12,800 to go under the radar, and we all know why. That was not the action of a government hell-bent on ensuring integrity. What about the decision of those opposite to sack the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee under the cover of darkness, or their continued efforts to undermine the independence of the CCC? That did not scream integrity either. Who can forget the sorry saga of Scott Driscoll? Those opposite had to be dragged kicking and screaming to suspend him. What about the LNP's dodgy donor membership rort? The list goes on. They fail the integrity test on every occasion and they have the fingerprints of the Leader of the Opposition all over them. We know that the Leader of the Opposition learned at the feet

of Campbell Newman. She sat around the CBRC table, learning all the tricks and how to do things, while also taking in his philosophy of government. His philosophy of government is her philosophy of government and it stands in stark contrast to the approach of the Palaszczuk government.

Since 2015, this government has restored the independence of the CCC; restored the disclosure threshold to \$1,000, as well as six-monthly reporting of political parties and associated entities; introduced real-time disclosure of political donations, leading the nation; and banned political donations from property developers at both state and local government levels, despite the best efforts of the LNP to use the federal parliament to create legislative loopholes to get around the ban or to try to strike the legislation down in the High Court. Those opposite do not have a leg to stand on when it comes to matters of integrity, yet they prioritise cheap political stunts rather than laying out their plans for Queenslanders. We know why that is. Clearly and plainly it is because the LNP do not have the integrity to be up-front about their plan for Queensland's economy, which is, always has been and always will be to cut, sack and sell.