




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 23 March 2021

MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Electoral Donations

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (2.10 pm): What we have just heard from the Leader of the Opposition is that old adage made clear: if you can fake sincerity, you've got it made. Imagine being lectured to by the LNP on health care when the member for Broadwater sat around the cabinet table and closed the Barrett Adolescent Centre against advice. The then minister whom he served with in the cabinet, Lawrence Springborg, did not even read the advice.

There he was, the member for Broadwater, sitting around the cabinet table when they closed that adolescent mental health centre with tragic consequences for young people in this state. The member for Broadwater can come in here today with his fake sincerity and his stories, but when he had a chance to make a decision about health care in this state he did nothing. He sacked 4,400 health workers in this state. He sacrificed them as they threw an anvil on the economy of Queensland. What an absolute disgrace!

We have heard once again today about the opposition's absolute disregard for the rule of law in this state—their absolute addiction to property developer donations, disregarding the law in Queensland, disregarding donation laws that they opposed every single step of the way. What did we learn in the *Australian* today? The Electoral Commission has launched a formal investigation into—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: They still call out. You would have thought on one occasion they might be silent. The ECQ has launched a formal investigation into an LNP event held on an exclusive island near Noosa. This was an event the then alternative premier of this state, the member for Nanango, attended to take property developer donations. That is the allegation that has been made and that is what is being investigated. Who was the guest speaker? Peter Dutton. How desperate must you be to raise money by having Peter Dutton as a guest speaker?

We learnt that someone else was there, and that of course was the member for Surfers Paradise. In his own words, the member for Surfers Paradise was 'an innocent guest' at this event, but he was 'perplexed' at how property developers came to be present. The member for Surfers Paradise must have missed the memo: don't ask; don't tell. Of course, he was not slow to pass the blame on. The member for Surfers Paradise threw the member for Ninderry under the property developer bus.

Spare a thought for the poor old member for Ninderry, who has been thrown on the backbench. He worked so hard as a shadow minister and was punted as soon as the member for Broadwater got a chance. Like the member for Glass House and the member for Burleigh, he was cast aside from the shadow front bench. This comes after all the work he did grifting property developer donations for the party for the election. He got kicked to the kerb. It must be galling for him to see the member for Surfers Paradise there—now in his third decade—on the opposition front bench totally unaware of why he was in Noosa, who was there and for what purpose. 'Don't ask me,' said the member for Surfers Paradise.

We know the LNP do not like these laws, just like they do not like transparency and accountability when it is applied to them. For all the Leader of the Opposition talks about applying the blowtorch, they cannot stand it when the heat is put on them. For all the posturing of the member for Maroochydore, the LNP only care about accountability when it is applied to somebody else.

They fought our political donation reforms all the way to the High Court—where they promptly lost. We now know the LNP are the subject of a formal investigation by the ECQ—a formal investigation that was instigated by their own party. That is how bad it is. As we read on an almost daily basis in the *Courier-Mail*, Peter Gleeson is chronicling the chronic dysfunction within their political organisation. This is a party that does not trust itself. Why should Queensland ever trust them? The Leader of the Opposition has talked a big game about pursuing an integrity agenda.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, member for Everton!

Mr DICK: I will give this much: at least the Deputy Leader of the Opposition was willing to sit here and listen to it. Now the test is for the Leader of the Opposition. If the Leader of the Opposition is so concerned about integrity, what is the member for Broadwater—

Mr STEVENS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. As the member would be well aware, references to people's absence are not allowed under the standing orders.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice. Treasurer, I remind you of the standing orders. The convention is that you do not refer to the absence of members from the chamber.

Mr DICK: The Queensland Leader of the Opposition cannot stand behind the Prime Minister's go-to strategy saying that he was not advised, that he did not know. He cannot stand behind Scott Morrison's alternative strategy: don't ask; don't tell. He has to ask his frontbencher what went on, who was there, what money was taken and why. If not, he is just another opposition leader, another LNP leader in this state, who does not have the backbone to stand up to his own party. He is a Leader of the Opposition, as I said in question time, with no vision, no agenda and no ideas. We have to find out today whether he is a Leader of the Opposition with no backbone at all.

(Time expired)