




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 20 April 2021

MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Treasurer and Minister for Investment, Performance

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.28 pm): It is clear that the vanity tour of the Treasurer of the state has concluded. For a guy who loves the sound of his own voice, he has been very quiet lately. Members may recall that when he was appointed Treasurer he did press conference after press conference just to tell everyone, 'I'm the new Treasurer. This is me. It's really me. Yes, I got the job. No-one believes it but it's me. I have the job.' He did about three press conferences in one day.

I remember him saying at one of those press conferences, 'As the state's new Treasurer I understand that every dollar matters.' Is it only because he became the Treasurer that he understands? What happened when he was sitting around the cabinet table as the health minister or the attorney-general? What about the SPER debt that he tried to hide? The Ethics Committee found that he had misled the House. Was the Treasurer thinking about all of the dollars and cents back then? No! It is because he became Treasurer that he now understands.

We know that he is only part way to where he wants to be. He wants the big job. The problem is that he is not in the right faction and he does not have the unions' support. An article from *Crikey* some time ago I think sums up Treasurer Cameron Dick perfectly. It says—

Dick and his allies are reportedly sick of waiting for his destiny to materialise ...

Knowing the member for Woodridge, I reckon that is on the money—waiting for his destiny to materialise! This man is a fraud. This man is a fake. He is an absolute fake.

Who can forget the budget he handed down? He did a press conference in which he said, 'This is my first budget,' and on the morning of the budget he tweeted a photo of himself holding his cup of coffee in the Bernays Room, looking out the window—like JFK's brother. What is his fascination with these American presidents? I do not think he was looking out the window in the Bernays Room; I suspect he was looking at himself in the big mirror he has had installed in the Bernays Room and saying, 'Mirror, mirror on the wall; yes, I'm the Treasurer after all.'

Who can forget that during the lockdown, when the state Treasurer should be looking after businesses in the state and getting businesses the support they need, he was walking his little pink pooch every day? When I saw the first tweet I thought, 'Okay, that is a bit odd. He should be at work still fighting for small businesses.' On the second day, I woke up in the morning to a second photo of him walking with his little pink pooch. The third day took me by complete surprise. Not only was he walking his little pink pooch in his shorts—mind you, he had the same gym gear on for three days; that is weird—but also he had on his Biden-like aviator sunglasses. He is just copying American presidents—

Mr Mander: Cool personified.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection—cool personified. He thinks he is Joe Biden: he has the aviator glasses on with the big black mask, thinking he is cool personified. This is the Treasurer of the state. Jo-Ann Miller, the former member for Bundamba, said that this guy, the state's Treasurer, is a gormless show pony. We know it is true. We know he is all show and no tell.

He is so arrogant and out of touch and thinks himself so great that he is the only member in this House who could polish the chandeliers with his nose, because he is constantly looking over and out above everybody. That is the attitude of the state Treasurer. This is what people need to know about the Queensland Treasurer.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member, I ask you to withdraw. That is unparliamentary.

Mr BLEIJIE: All of it or just the last part?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You know the standing orders as well as I do. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. Talking about the vanity of the new Treasurer, who could forget that when Queensland was burning he went up to Binna Burra Lodge and ordered the firefighters to put the lost bell back in the bush so he could have a photo op? I remember seeing it on the news. Out came the Treasurer in a shiny suit, carrying this big bell from the forest—not a bead of sweat on him, not a mark from any smoke. It was a set-up. This is what politics in Queensland has got to.

Mr Mander: What did he say? He said, 'We found it.'

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. He said, 'We found it.' Well, he found it the second time, after it had been put back there by the firefighters so he could have a vanity photo op. That is the reality of this guy. This guy, the state's Treasurer, does not know the debt level in the state. He says that every dollar counts, but he did not know the debt level when asked on the Channel 9 program. Queensland deserves better than this man, whose only reality is—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Use correct titles, please, member.

Mr BLEIJIE: I agree with the *Crikey* article. In the left-wing Labor Party, his destiny will never materialise in this place.

(Time expired)