



Speech By  
**Kim Richards**


**MEMBER FOR REDLANDS**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Redland City Council

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (7.00 pm): Acting with integrity is one of the most critically important qualities we should expect of our elected representatives. It is also an absolute prerequisite for anyone considering standing for public office to represent their community.

Redland City Council Mayor Karen Williams in the lead-up to the 2020 local government elections initiated a campaign calling on candidates and councillors to #pledgenottosledge. In a *Redland City Bulletin* article, the mayor was quoted as saying, 'Bullying is out of control ... and candidates are being urged to pledge not to sledge as social media heats up in the lead-up to the election.' I table that article.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 25 February 2020, titled "Bullying out of control": Mayor Karen Williams launches anti-bullying campaign ahead ...' [188](#).

Yesterday at my parliamentary office I received a corflute from Redland City Council with that very pledge on it.

All too often we see bad behaviour on social media—fake news, fake pages and fake profiles. I know our federal member is all too familiar with holding multiple profiles. As it turns out, he is not alone as an elected representative.

Before I go on, I want to confirm that I have the permission of Mrs Hewlett to table correspondence, and I want to be clear that this matter is not proceeding with the QPS and it is not before the courts. For the benefit of the House, I table a *Courier-Mail* article dated 1 November 2020.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 1 November 2020, titled 'The sister of Queensland's "penis plonking" former MP Peter Dowling was the target of a bizarre attempt to discredit her professionally' [189](#).

The *Courier-Mail* article outlines an extraordinary attempt to smear, denigrate and jeopardise the employment of Mrs Hewlett, the wife of Redlands councillor Lance Hewlett, in the lead-up to local council elections. A fake Facebook profile and email account under the name 'Scarlett Rivers' was allegedly created to send Mrs Hewlett's employer, a Gold Coast kindergarten, unfounded and false accusations in messages that asserted Mrs Hewlett was posting unauthorised images of students on social media.

The article went on to detail that police documents seen by the *Courier-Mail* revealed that the IP address of the computer used to create the fake profile 'Scarlett Rivers' and to send those emails was traced to the computer of a Queensland councillor's home. The article did not state the name of the local councillor under investigation. Tonight I can reveal that it was Redland City councillor for Division 7, Rowanne McKenzie. I table emails from the QPS in regard to the investigation.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of emails between Sheena Hewlett and Queensland Police regarding a stalking complaint [190](#).

To go to these lengths to be vexatious and mischievous is beyond the pale. It sets a new low in one's conduct. It has to be noted that this occurred in the lead-up to the local government elections. Given the council's commitment to a culture of pledging not to sledge, I ask: what is the council going to do about this? No family member of an elected representative should be targeted in such a disgraceful manner.

Integrity is everything and these actions outlined above speak for themselves. We should and must expect more of our candidates and elected representatives. As the mayor said in her article, 'The community expects more,' and the community deserves more. Scarlett Rivers, it would now appear evident who you are.