



Speech By  
**Brent Mickelberg**


**MEMBER FOR BUDERIM**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2022

**MOTION**

**Office of the Integrity Commissioner**

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (5.10 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the shadow minister for integrity calling on the Economics and Governance Committee to release all documents pertaining to concerns of the Integrity Commissioner about alleged interference by the Public Service Commission—alleged interference where a laptop was seized by the Public Service Commission. We have heard those opposite say that it was not seized, it was just provided to the CCC at their request. However, the Deputy Premier and others are being a little bit misleading with their characterisation of what went on. It has been reported that the laptop was taken from the Integrity Commissioner when she was ordered by the Public Service Commission to stay home. It was taken from the Integrity Commissioner when she was ordered to stay home presumably so she could not interfere or object to the seizure of the laptop.

It has also been reported that the Crime and Corruption Commission only requested the laptop be provided to them after the laptop was seized and after a complaint was made by the Integrity Commissioner. The question has to be asked why the most senior members of the Palaszczuk Labor government are again trying to distort what really happened. Why did the Premier feel the need to seek to discredit the Integrity Commissioner by referring a two-year-old allegation about her in the days following a complaint from the Integrity Commissioner about interference by the Public Service Commission involving the Premier?

What is on the laptop that has made senior members of the Labor Party so nervous? Is it information that explains why senior Labor figure and former Brisbane lord mayor Jim Soorley received a brown paper bag with \$2½ thousand in it to lobby the Minister for Transport and Main Roads even though he is not a registered lobbyist? Is it information about the links between Anacta and the government? Did the Integrity Commissioner find out what went on in all of those commercial-in-confidence meetings between Labor lobbyist Evan Moorhead and ministers like de Brenni, Bailey and the Deputy Premier? Who knows?

What Queenslanders do know is that the Palaszczuk Labor government is nothing but an arrogant, tired, third-term government who are only interested in looking after themselves and their Labor mates; an arrogant, tired government who have given up governing for all Queenslanders and now more than ever are just focused on the maintenance of power and looking after their mates. Queenslanders deserve better.

Queenslanders deserve better than the hollow excuses presented by a weak Premier. They deserve better than ministers who are not held to account when they do the wrong thing. Queenslanders deserve better than a culture that seeks to hide any information that is inconvenient for the government. Queenslanders deserve a full-blown commission of inquiry into the corruption and maladministration that permeates through this government. Every day the Premier ignores them, Queenslanders know that the Premier cares more about looking after her dodgy Labor mates than she does about governing for all Queenslanders.

Over recent weeks we have seen all manner of inquiries initiated by the state government, each a response to mounting pressure from the media and the public to do something.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Time—

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I think I have five to go, Mr Speaker!

**Mr SPEAKER:** No, I believe that the time may have been incorrectly entered. You have two minutes to go. Thank you.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Unfortunately, as we so often see from the Premier, it was too little too late. Every single announcement has been crafted to solve a political problem or a media problem rather than to solve what are very clearly significant failings of governance and integrity within this Labor state government. Who is advising the Premier on these things? Who thought that appointing the Premier's own director-general to complete a review was a good idea, a director-general who the Premier said yesterday she meets with every single day? How could Rachel Hunter ever hope to be able to independently investigate the integrity crisis engulfing this government?

When that did not work, someone came up with a bright idea to appoint a Labor donor and a former Labor Party member to complete a review into corruption and integrity failings of this Labor state government. It is pretty hard to imagine a scenario where the Premier's staff did not know that Peter Coaldrake was both a Labor Party donor and a Labor Party member in the past, particularly given it is on the public record in the most recent term by the member for Gympie, who spoke about it in 2018. In fact, if members type it into the parliament's internet search engine, it is one of the first things to come up.

I do not know Coaldrake, but I do know that no inquiry examining this Labor government's integrity failings and the interactions between Labor lobbyists and the like can be considered independent in any way when it is being conducted by a person who donated a considerable sum of money to the same politicians who have now appointed him and who was a member of the same Labor Party. The Premier keeps saying that the Coaldrake review will be able to investigate these issues, but the facts are that Coaldrake has no power to compel witnesses and will not be investigating individual complaints.

The Premier keeps saying that the Crime and Corruption Commission is a standing royal commission, but we have seen in recent days how the former deputy premier has fought to suppress a report of the Crime and Corruption Commission because it is inconvenient. How can Queenslanders have confidence in this government and their integrity failings when they clearly do not have confidence themselves?