



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 February 2022

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Leader of the Opposition, Performance**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (2.21 pm): I begin by commending the Leader of the Opposition. I watched his speech and I want to commend him on getting to double digits on social media views. He got to 10! What a great start for the Leader of the Opposition. When it comes to integrity, the Leader of the Opposition is like the little boy who cried wolf. For weeks we have heard the howls from the Leader of the Opposition, the confected outrage, the wild eyes, the table-thumping carry on, but his accusations have no substance. The Leader of the Opposition has not identified a single solitary issue that has not already been dealt with by a responsible integrity agency in this state or is being dealt with by a responsible integrity agency. Just like the little boy who cried wolf, the opposition leader will be shown to be his own worst enemy.

There is a reason that the Leader of the Opposition is so strident when his evidence is so weak. There is a reason the Leader of the Opposition is trying to confect a crisis. It is because the real crisis is in his leadership. The Leader of the Opposition is not cutting through, and every single person in Queensland knows it. His existence is not registering in the electorate. Nobody knows who the Leader of the Opposition is, what he does or what he stands for.

Let us not forget that at his first electoral test at the Stretton by-election the Leader of the Opposition failed miserably. It was the worst by-election performance by a Leader of the Opposition for 20 years and the LNP backbench knows it. Today we call him the current Leader of the Opposition, but it will not be long before we will just be calling him the member for Broadwater. His party will abandon him just like he abandoned Townsville. This is a Leader of the Opposition who had to shift over 1,000 kilometres to find a community that would tolerate him. Now he has even abandoned Broadwater. He has sold his house there. I would welcome him to Brisbane but I live in Logan.

The Leader of the Opposition is supposed to be putting forward an alternative government, and that is what he has failed to do. That is why his leadership is failing. As every week passes, the Leader of the Opposition drifts further away from any kind of credible alternative. The Leader of the Opposition is alone with nothing left but desperate mud-slinging, smear and innuendo. The Leader of the Opposition thinks he is clever. You only have to look at him to know that. The Leader of the Opposition thinks he is putting the government under pressure, but nothing could be further from the truth. Where was the Leader of the Opposition in December and January when small and family businesses were in their hour of need?

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order!

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I place you on a warning, member for Mudgeeraba. I was clearly on my feet.

**Mr DICK:** He abandoned them just like he abandoned his electorates. Where was the Leader of the Opposition when our government stepped up to back in business, bringing workers back into the CBD? Where was the Leader of the Opposition when our government was keeping small and family businesses free of the density restrictions that plagued southern states? Where was the Leader of the Opposition when our government was working with the aviation industry to put together a \$200 million package to support tourism and businesses in Queensland? Where was the Leader of the Opposition when all that was happening? He was yelling into the void with his made-up crisis.

I have to sympathise with the member for Buderim. I am sure he was telling the leader that the LNP needed to get onto an agenda that mattered to Queenslanders. Where was the shadow Treasurer? We know he has made some changes: styling up for the leadership. Do not worry about the leadership, member for Toowoomba South. Look behind you; it is the member for Whitsunday who is styling up for your job. You can get a makeover as much as you like, but look over your shoulder. It is the member for Whitsunday who is coming. Whoever is the leader, whoever is the deputy leader, nothing will change with the crew opposite. It is the same old LNP. There is no alternative government. There are no alternative policies and there are certainly no alternative plans for Queensland's strong economic recovery.