




Speech By
David Janetzki

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

Record of Proceedings, 22 February 2022

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Wellcamp Quarantine Facility

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.15 pm): Long before the Wellcamp quarantine facility was more flammable material in the government's integrity inferno, this state government had already proven itself to be contemptuous of the Queensland taxpayer and the people of the Darling Downs. It is worth going back to the history of the quarantine facility to August last year, and that contribution from the Deputy Premier reminded me again of the government's complete contempt for the taxpayers of Queensland and for decency and goodness in this state, because what happened in August last year was the government came to the Darling Downs and without any notice whatsoever dropped the quarantine facility onto our community.

One would have thought that the government would have spoken with the health department. No. One would have thought that it would have spoken with the police to work out how many police officers would be necessary. Nope. One would have thought that it would come and talk to the Ambulance Service to work out how the arrangements would be made, but not even that. Did it have the courtesy to even notify the mayor of our region? No, it did not. It did not matter whatever it was doing with the quarantine facility; it was contemptuous of the taxpayers of Queensland and it was contemptuous of the people of the Darling Downs.

What do we know now eight, nine, 10 months later? Firstly, we finally discovered that there was a \$50 million build for the quarantine facility. That has now been confirmed. What we know is that the government ignored procurement and probity requirements. Its own 13-page document which would guide how procurement and probity would be undertaken in this state for engaging in a contract of this nature was completely ignored, and I note that the member for Kawana has in fact written to the Auditor-General in this regard to seek out answers on whether the taxpayer was getting the best value for money. I put it to the House that there was simply a complete ignorance of the probity and procurement standards, and the government on that foot alone should be condemned.

What do we know now? We know now that Anacta got 20 meetings for its client Aspen Medical and of those 20 meetings 15 were in fact commercial-in-confidence, but it did not just get the meetings; it ended up getting it a \$56 million contract without a tender. There are similar questions around other appointments on to this contract as well. Whether it be Ernst & Young for the transaction manager or whether it be Compass as the manager of the program on site, there are serious questions to be answered here. But what is the one thing we know now more than any other? It is that this government has no idea what commercial-in-confidence means—not a clue. In one 24-hour period we had three senior figures of the government, allegedly all with law degrees, come out and give different interpretations of commercial-in-confidence.

Firstly the Premier, at 11.38 am, said leasing documents are commercial-in-confidence; at 11.39 am she said leasing arrangements are commercial-in-confidence; and at 11.40 am the law changed. The Premier had started writhing on contract law 101. A few of us must have missed that

lecture at university, but the Premier said, 'I will release my confidential information if someone else releases theirs.' It is absolutely shameful. How can any business that engages with the Queensland government have confidence that their trade secrets or confidential information will ever be protected. How can they ever have confidence when the Premier of the state is so blase about confidential information.

The next morning the health minister jumped up to try to correct the record. She only confirmed that it was \$190 million across the entire project. She must not have received the memo. She was formerly the attorney-general who got rid of Fitzgerald-era optional preferential voting with 18 minutes notice, introducing 229 amendments over 100 pages at 9.30 at night for the biggest reforms to the electoral system in Queensland history. This is the quality of lawyers we have in the government talking about commercial-in-confidence information.

The next morning the Treasurer with the law degree who spent time at Tuvalu jumps up. At least he seemed to have some understanding of commercial-in-confidence, but again how can any business have confidence when dealing with the Queensland government. First they proved how contemptuous they were of the taxpayer and the Darling Downs people, now they just prove how incompetent they are.