




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 22 February 2022

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Integrity in Government

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.36 pm): For the past few weeks many Queenslanders, including whistleblowers, former public servants and the Integrity Commissioner, have been speaking out about integrity issues and calling for a royal commission into the Palaszczuk government. It is important to note that the integrity issues engulfing the government are not new. Who could forget 'mangocube emailgate', the QBCC, the Attorney-General not declaring her free Canadian ski accommodation, Deputy Premier Miles rigging the Queensland Health poll and Jackie Trad—where do I start?

In July 2020, the Crime and Corruption Commission tabled a report into the appointment of a school principal and the allegations that Jackie Trad had intervened in the selection process. It was important and in the public interest that the Crime and Corruption report was tabled in parliament so that Queenslanders could have confidence in our systems of integrity and our public institutions, which have been so battered by the Palaszczuk government of late. When we look at these matters we must always consider what is in the public interest. It is in that vein that I draw a most serious issue to the attention of parliament.

On 17 November 2021 Mr Michael McKenna, from the *Australian*, wrote an article titled 'Secrecy shroud over watchdog report into Jackie Trad'. The issue reported in that article stemmed from an original LNP complaint to the CCC with respect to the appointment of Mr Frankie Carroll as under treasurer. A whistleblower had contacted the LNP and advised that an independent selection panel was established and recommended Mr Leon Allen for appointment as under treasurer but, as was the case with the principal's selection in South Brisbane, Jackie Trad, as treasurer, personally intervened and Mr Allen did not get the job. Mr Frankie Carroll was appointed under treasurer. That process was overseen by the Premier's handpicked director-general, Mr Dave Stewart. The *Australian* has reported that the CCC investigation has been completed.

I have had it put to me by a number of sources that this investigation has, in fact, been completed by the Crime and Corruption Commission and is ready for tabling in parliament. The only thing stopping the CCC report being tabled in parliament is Jackie Trad. Jackie Trad is so determined to hide the report from the public eye that she has applied to the Supreme Court of Queensland to have the report suppressed from being made public. That court action follows another Labor mate, disgraced former public trustee Peter Carne, applying to the Supreme Court to have the Crime and Corruption Commission report into his conduct—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member, are you absolutely certain that you are not straying into the area of sub judice in your contribution?

Mr BLEIJIE: Yes, I am, pursuant to standing order 233. Mr Deputy Speaker, I can assure you that it is not sub judice subject to standing order 233.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. You may continue.

Mr BLEIJIE: Standing order 233 deals with criminal matters and this is not a criminal matter. As I said, another Labor mate, disgraced former public trustee Peter Carne, applied to the Supreme Court to have the Crime and Corruption Commission report into his conduct suppressed. He lost that court action and has filed an appeal to the Court of Appeal. There is nothing on the court register so far that relates to Jackie Trad's application. Why is that?

I am told that the Supreme Court is holding off making a final decision on the Jackie Trad matter until the Court of Appeal hands down its decision with respect to Peter Carne. I was also told that Mr Dave Stewart may have launched similar action as Jackie Trad or joined Jackie Trad's application. Mr Stewart should answer these allegations. It would be easier if he were not sitting in a plum job now in London. I call on Jackie Trad to withdraw her application.

Crime and Corruption Commission reports given to parliament for tabling should not be kept in the dark. This completed CCC report into the appointment of the under treasurer should be made immediately available to the people of Queensland. I call on Premier Palaszczuk to order the immediate release of this Crime and Corruption Commission report. We do not know what is in the report, but what we do know is that you do not run off to the Supreme Court to have the matter hidden from the public if you have nothing to fear or hide. If the Premier does not release this crime and corruption report into the appointment of under treasurer Frankie Carroll, then she and her government are complicit with Jackie Trad in trying to hide these things from the public.

Once upon a time when the Premier was opposition leader in 2014, she signed up to the Fitzgerald principles and made a big song and dance about the Fitzgerald principles. One of the principles the Premier signed up to as opposition leader was the principle that one should not withhold or obfuscate information to which voters are entitled. I put it to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, that the voters and the public of Queensland are absolutely entitled to see the Crime and Corruption Commission report that has been completed and has been sitting somewhere for many months. It is not up to Jackie Trad to run off to the Supreme Court to try and hide this CCC report. If the Premier believes in openness, accountability and the Fitzgerald principle that she applied to and signed up to, she would ask her old mate Jackie Trad to stop, withdraw the application to the Supreme Court and come and be public about it.

(Time expired)