



Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 29 March 2022

## **MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

### **Palaszczuk Labor Government, Unions**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.28 pm): I want to give the House some transparency with respect to corruption in Queensland involving the Labor Party and their association with the union movement in the state of Queensland. Last weekend the paper revealed that the nurses union were not only getting advance copies of a secret government document but also helping to draft it. Not only were they drafting it; they were editing it.

**Ms King:** You hate nurses.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** No. I will tell you what we hate: the corruption risk that associates with the union movement and the Labor Party.

We know why: when the nurses union is not only editing a government document with respect to government policy but making a direct attack on competition, that is corruption. That is a corruption risk. That is what the CCC should be looking at, and we wonder why. Why would the Labor Party be campaigning so much against these independent unions being established in Queensland? We heard the attack from the Treasurer this morning with regard to independent unions. What about the workers choosing where they want to invest their membership fees? What about the workers choosing who they want to advocate for them in industrial relations matters? That is what the choice is and that is what the Labor government is trying to take away from people.

The nurses union will say, 'We don't donate to the Labor Party. We're not affiliated with the Labor Party.' It may not be officially now, but here is what it does do: it donates its money to the Queensland Council of Unions—\$110,000 from the nurses union, and I table a copy of the ECQ disclosure.

*Tabled paper:* Extract from the Electoral Commission of Queensland webpage titled 'Donor Location Map' [419](#).

There was \$110,000 from the nurses union to the Queensland Council of Unions and the Teachers' Union donated \$120,000 to the Queensland Council of Unions. The Queensland Council of Unions then runs third-party political campaigns for people like the member for Miller, who is only in here because of his union membership and what he owes the union. That is why he is in here. His preselection—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** He is not in here for talent—I give you that—and he is not in here for competency; he is in here to do the union's bidding. We saw it: he gave cabinet documents to union members and said, 'How should I vote?' They replied, 'There's only one way to vote—option A.' I was surprised to then see the Premier's comments. When she was asked about this, the Premier said, 'We don't make decisions. We don't vote on things.' What on earth do they do? What does cabinet do? I have been in cabinet. We make decisions. We vote on things. We do not go to the union movement and say, 'Which option?' What on earth! What do these lemmings do?

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order, Attorney-General!

**Mr Bailey:** They win elections!

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The level of interjection is really getting out of hand. I will start warning members and asking members to leave the chamber.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take that interjection: 'We win elections,' he says. Do members know what that shows? That shows the arrogance of a third-term Labor government—

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I warn the member for Southern Downs.

**Mr BLEIJIE:**—that thinks it can come in here and do what it wants without transparency and without accountability. He sits there not making decisions in cabinet, and the Premier confirmed it. I wonder what he does around the cabinet table. Could members imagine the contribution?

**An opposition member:** Twitter!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I know he is on Twitter every second in the cabinet, but I suspect he has all of his phones lined up and then he says, 'The ETU says this. The CFMEU says that.'

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Resume your seat, member. Do not use props. You are using those phones as a prop. If you do it again, I will warn you.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** He takes his instructions from the ETU and the CFMEU. They are the ones dictating Labor Party policy. I am not going to sit by and let the Labor Party try to stifle debate about independent unions being established in Queensland. Why does the Labor Party not allow workers the choice?

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** What does it have to hide from an independent union, which, I might add, charges the worker half the price of the nurses union and half the price of the Queensland Teachers' Union?

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Don't let me lose my voice. COVID may get me, but this Attorney never will.

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, Attorney-General!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Why not let members save their money with half membership fees? I reckon these independent unions give a better service than the nurses union and a better service than the Teachers' Union. I say to Queensland nurses and to Queensland teachers: you are being ripped off by the unions. Support unity with our independent union and choice—

*(Time expired)*