




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Cabinet

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.16 pm): One would be forgiven for looking across the chamber and seeing the Minister for Transport staring in awe at the Deputy Premier, but all he is thinking is, 'Mate, the longer you speak, the more chance I've got to be in the big job—the more chance I've got to be leading the factional left-wing allies,' who are sitting over there who came in to support the big 'Deputy Dawg' when he does his big take-down! What a joke!

This has gone from the Friday gossip column in the Oz, 'Feeding the Chooks', to another full-blown crisis of the government. It exposes how the Palaszczuk government runs their government and their offices—from a superyacht in the Whitsundays, it appears. Their story has changed so much in the last three days it has more holes than a block of Swiss cheese. One minute it was a holiday; the next minute the Premier was working. One minute the minister found out on Wednesday and that minister found out on Monday, but by the end of question time that minister actually found out on Monday, not Wednesday. For goodness sake! If you are going to keep the cover-up going, at least get together. This is the Labor Party! They caucus together and sort their stories out because it is not the issue that will get them unstuck: it is the cover-up. It is always the cover-up.

As the Leader of the Opposition said, we do not care if the Premier likes hanging out each weekend on superyachts with the rich and famous. Good luck to her! Go for it every weekend: I do not care. What I do care about is when the Premier does not trust her deputy to chair cabinet meetings. The cabinet meeting should have been held to deal with issues such as health, youth crime, homelessness and the rental crisis. All of those issues could have been dealt with at a cabinet meeting on Monday, but the fact is that the Premier does not trust her deputy. Who could blame her? The last time he was in charge he signed off on Jackie Trad's legal indemnity. That is why she does not trust him. She cannot trust him to lead because who knows what the left wing of the Labor Party will do when the boss is away on a superyacht!

Speaking of superyachts, on the news last night the Minister for Small Business said, 'The Premier worked hard during the pandemic.' Save me the dramatics of working hard! Politicians were lucky to have a job during the pandemic when many in our community lost their jobs, so I am not going to bite when ministers opposite say they all worked hard during the pandemic. Every Queenslanders worked hard! They worked extremely hard, particularly when they did not have a job and they could not put food on the table. Save us the dramatics of a Premier doing what she gets paid to do! That is the reality.

If the Premier wants to talk about what she does and how busy she is, one only has to look at her diary from June. She was a very busy Premier. On the first weekend in June, on 4 June, she attended the Baz Luhrmann *Elvis* premiere—oh, poor Premier, working hard! Just to continue the theme of the small business minister of this Premier working hard, for goodness sake, on the next weekend she had to attend the Stradbroke race day. Oh, Mr Deputy Speaker! The weekend after the Stradbroke

race day—my goodness, I feel sorry for the Premier—she had to attend the Logies and the red carpet. Oh! My despair is too much, because the next weekend in June the Premier did not do anything. This Premier works so hard! Save us the dramatics! Everyone in this parliament works hard for our communities. She is doing what she gets paid to do.

The reality is that the Premier cannot trust the Deputy Premier to lead the cabinet. The reality is that Beattie, Bligh, Borbidge and Newman all had their deputy lead the cabinet meeting, chair the cabinet meeting, when they could not show up. Even Joh trusted his deputy, Bill Gunn, to chair a cabinet meeting. Who could forget that when Bill Gunn chaired the cabinet meeting we had the Fitzgerald inquiry. If Joh can trust his deputy, why is it that the Premier cannot trust this Deputy Premier? We all know, as well as the backbench on that side, that the Deputy Premier is a joke.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member for Kawana, I ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary language.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw.