




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 1 September 2022

ECONOMICS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (3.53 pm): I was not intending to speak on this committee report until I heard the member for Hervey Bay. I always get interested when I hear the Labor Party trying to lecture people about integrity.

In this whole debacle of the office of the Integrity Commissioner we have seen the attack on the first woman appointed integrity commissioner of Queensland by the Labor Party—an attack on the first female integrity commissioner by the Labor Party! The Labor Party dragged her reputation through the mud during this process. They starved her of resources in her office. They starved her of people resources. They got rid of people who worked in her office. They reduced her office staff from seven to one. How could the integrity commissioner effectively do her job when they effectively got rid of all her staff?

I still want to know, to the member for Hervey Bay, what is on the laptop, because something was on the laptop. Something made the integrity commissioner so concerned—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): I will again remind members to keep the volume down. I could not determine who it was who was calling out. I think it was everybody, but I am going to start warning after this.

Mr BLEIJIE: When you have the integrity commissioner herself referring a matter to the Crime and Corruption Commission, it should be taken seriously.

Mr Power interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Logan, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr BLEIJIE: Not only did the Labor Party not take those allegations seriously; they then dragged her name through the mud and have basically said after that that she made things up. That is absolute rubbish!

Mr Tantari interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Hervey Bay, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr BLEIJIE: The integrity commissioner was so concerned that she wrote a complaint to the Crime and Corruption Commission. The Crime and Corruption Commission spent 12 months investigating it. It obviously reached the threshold for investigation.

It is concerning that no-one in the Public Service Commission through this investigation can remember who ordered the laptops to be collected. Collected, raided—whatever the word is—it happened. Who in the Public Service Commission all of a sudden thought within 24 hours that the

laptops needed to be collected when usually it is a process that takes weeks or months? All of a sudden it had to happen. As soon as the integrity commissioner herself became concerned about blind carbon copies of emails, that is when the CCC got involved. That is when the integrity commissioner lost her office.

I am saying to this House that where there is smoke there is fire, and there was plenty of smoke coming out of the Public Service Commission. I will say it again in this House: I would trust the former integrity commissioner, the first female integrity commissioner, over any Labor Party members any day of the week, considering the one who is speaking about this the most in the Labor Party is, believe it or not, the member for Miller!

The Minister for Transport and Main Roads has a hide to be tweeting about integrity and the Crime and Corruption Commission. The Crime and Corruption Commission said he was a fool—that the member for Miller was ‘foolish’. There was an investigation into him. The CCC now has an express lane for Labor Party members. There are so many members who have gone through the CCC with integrity issues that they need an express lane. I will trust the integrity and honesty of the former integrity commissioner, Dr Stepanov, over Labor Party members any day of the week.

Here is a lesson for members of the Labor Party: when a senior public servant makes allegations with respect to her office, they should be treated seriously. That is why we took up the fight on behalf of the former integrity commissioner because, God knows, the Labor Party did not. They were happy to hide it. They were happy to cover it up; we were not. That is why we supported the former integrity commissioner.

I am not going to be lectured to by the member for Miller, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, who the CCC said was an absolute fool. He has the hide to tweet about CCC matters. For goodness sake, he has absolutely lost the plot. I feel sorry for the former integrity commissioner that her contract was not renewed because she was doing a darn fine good job and the Labor Party forced her out of a job.

(Time expired)