




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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INTEGRITY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

PUBLIC SECTOR BILL

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.46 am): Reflecting on the contribution of the honourable member who just spoke, he took many of my interjections and when I challenged him to explain what my interjections were he could not recall. I will tell him what I was talking about. In relation to the CCC, we gave it more funding and we empowered it to do what it was meant to do.

Mr POWER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, what is your point of order, given that the honourable member has been speaking for 20 seconds?

Mr POWER: Can he address his contribution through the chair, first of all. Also can he be relevant to the long title of the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, thank you for your points of order. The member for Kawana is just beginning his address. Member for Kawana, please direct your comments through the chair.

Mr BLEIJIE: The honourable member talked about bikies. We empowered the CCC to do their job.

Mr POWER: Relevance.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, we are talking about the Public Sector Bill and the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, you are warned.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, you are reflecting on the Chair right now. I will ask you to leave the chamber under the standing orders for one hour. There are methodologies and ways to raise points of order in this House. Shouting at the Chair and waving your hand or gesticulating in any other way is highly disorderly. Please leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Logan withdrew from the chamber at 11.48 am.

Mr BLEIJIE: I have been listening to the broad ranging debate on integrity and accountability, and following the Labor Party's last contribution we have contributed a lot of time talking about the Crime and Corruption Commission. I am responding to those issues.

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am sorry to interrupt the member for Kawana. On the departure of the member for Logan, he failed to acknowledge the Chair in the appropriate way. I will be raising that with you and asking you to review that as well as a reflection on the chair.

Mr BLEIJIE: I will just give anyone else an opportunity to jump up. This is going well. We empowered the CCC. We told them to do two things: firstly, go after corrupt public officials and politicians and, secondly, go after criminals. That is what the CCC were doing and they were doing a great job of it, hence why there were so many bikies in jail under the laws that we passed at the time. That is what the CCC was empowered to do.

This bill is on integrity and this is a cognate debate with the Public Sector Bill. If you look up the definition of integrity you will not find the words 'Palaszczuk government' or 'Palaszczuk ministers' anywhere near 'integrity'. This is a third-term government that has shown Queenslanders that they have no integrity in their ministerial roles and they accept no responsibility. They have responsibility but they never accept responsibility, they never accept accountability and they certainly do not show transparency in what they do, whether it be Minister Mark Bailey, the transport minister—who could forget the time of mangocube and the CCC investigation—or Jackie Trad. Jackie Trad's ghost still haunts this parliament. Despite the fact that the government have been in for eight years, Jackie Trad is currently in court trying to hide a report that Queenslanders deserve to know about. That is happening as we speak. They are trying to hide reports.

Why do we think Jackie Trad is trying to a report? Because that is the culture of the Palaszczuk government! That is the culture that the Premier has overseen in her leadership, whether it is in her own role and responsibilities or those of her ministers. We saw the issues with Barbagallo, her former chief of staff. Where is he now? Who knows! There is the investigation into the appointment of a former under treasurer. Where is that at? We have not even seen the conclusion of the CCC investigation into the appointment of a former under treasurer which involved ministerial intervention with the appointment just as Jackie Trad did with the school issue.

Mr Nicholls: Port of Gladstone.

Mr BLEIJIE: The Port of Gladstone—I take the interjection—and the investigation into the Labor mates up there. We have seen this time and time again. Now the Labor ministers are saying, 'Oh, the Coaldrake report: look at what we are doing. We're doing all these wonderful things.' The Premier was dragged, kicking and screaming, to have any sort of review. Just like with Mackay health, just like with Caboolture and just like with the DNA lab, the Premier said, 'No, it's not necessary. We don't need a review into my government.' Of course, with pressure, Coaldrake was appointed to review the culture in her government.

As the Leader of the Opposition reflected the other day, Professor Peter Coaldrake has handed down quite an extensive report with respect to culture. In that report some of the allegations he mentioned involved young ministerial staff walking around departments as if they owned the place. 'Little generals', I think they were described as in the Coaldrake report. Little generals are walking around the departments. That is not having respect for the Queensland Public Service. Labor lecture people about the Public Service but the Labor Party do not respect the Queensland Public Service. If they did, they would let them get on and do their jobs. They would empower them to do their jobs and not have ministerial staff walking around as if they are running the Public Service, which is what is happening at the moment.

Let us look at the attacks on the former Queensland integrity commissioner. They drove her out of the job and they have now appointed a new commissioner. Here is a newsflash for Labor members: one would expect the Integrity Commissioner of Queensland to be completely independent of politics because it is not only Labor members of parliament but also opposition and crossbench members who rely on advice from the Integrity Commissioner and also disclose quite personal information to the Integrity Commissioner. The new Integrity Commissioner whom they have appointed is Linda Waugh. I understand that in 2002 she worked in the political office of the then Labor police minister. If you work in a ministerial office then you have political affiliations with and leanings to that office and you are a true believer in the Labor Party cause. The Integrity Commissioner worked for a former Labor police minister. We are expected to go to the Integrity Commissioner for independent advice knowing that she worked for a former Labor Party minister of this state. That is not independent, but it is what the Labor Party do: they drive out people like the former integrity commissioner who was independent of the Labor Party. They say, 'No, we can't have her. Make sure she doesn't have that job. We will put someone in there whom we trust to do our bidding.' That is disgusting.

Having talked about the Integrity Commissioner and advice, let us look at the embattled health minister and all of the pressures she has been under. What an absolute shambles of an excuse she gave today. The health minister could not even bring herself to advise her boss, the Premier, of the severe conflict of interest that she had.

Mr Hinchliffe: Severe conflict of interest?

Mr BLEIJIE: An absolutely severe conflict of interest. When a minister is storing personal belongings in a commercial property the owner of which gets a government contract, as they did, that is a conflict of interest. There were recurring payments. What did the minister do? She drove through her electorate and, all of a sudden, she saw this vaccine hub site at a spare allotment and said, 'Oh, there's my lounge chair in the back there! What's going on here?' They kept receiving payments. Did she continually disclose—

Mr SMITH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I ask that you bring the member back to the long title of the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Thank you, member for Bundaberg, for your point of order. Member for Kawana, broadly, you need to be relevant to the long title of the bill, talking about integrity matters. It has been a broad-ranging debate, members. Member for Kawana, I advise you to remain relevant to the bill.

Mr BLEIJIE: The essence of the Coaldrake review was about the culture of the Palaszczuk government. I think the culture of the Palaszczuk government is rotten to its core. It is rotten to its foundation. At the head of that rests the Premier. The fish rots from the head. What I am saying in this contribution is that when the fish rots from the head it permeates through the ministerial roles including, clearly, that of the health minister. The health minister should have resigned given all of the other issues in the health crisis, be it at Caboolture, Mackay or the DNA lab.

Today we have revelations that the health minister was storing personal belongings in a commercial property that was being paid for by the Queensland taxpayer for a vaccine hub. The health minister failed to disclose that under the ministerial code of conduct to the Premier. The health minister's excuse to that today was—

Mr Hinchliffe: You don't understand what is required.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. Today the health minister's response was, 'You don't understand the code of conduct. It didn't go to cabinet.' Maybe the conflict of interest should have gone to cabinet. Maybe the health minister should have disclosed that her personal belongings were being held at a property the owner of which was being paid by the Queensland taxpayer to deliver a vaccine clinic. Maybe the problem with the Palaszczuk government is that there is not enough disclosure occurring.

Mr SMITH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. You have asked the member to come back to the long title of the bill. I ask that he be brought back to the long title of the bill again.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, please remain relevant to the bill.

Mr BLEIJIE: As I was saying, when you talk about culture, integrity, accountability and transparency in Queensland, this Palaszczuk government has none of it. They were dragged, kicking and screaming, to these bills today. They promised there will be more reviews, more things happening and more legislation coming. There comes a point in time when you have a government that is so out of touch, so arrogant and so full of hubris that they stop listening. That is what has happened with the Palaszczuk government. No amount of law changes and no amount of reviews will change the culture of the Palaszczuk government because they have stopped listening to Queenslanders. They have stopped caring for Queenslanders. This government has no compassion on matters now. Their only interest is self-interest. It is about their jobs. It about politics. It is about making sure they get re-elected time and time again. That is their modus operandi. They are not interested in cost-of-living issues. They are not interested in changing accountability and integrity.

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Comments will be put through the chair, please, member for Kawana and member for Sandgate.

Mr BLEIJIE: The minister who keeps interjecting is the minister who was forced to resign from his own portfolio because of the rail fail. He could not handle local government so they switched him out of that portfolio.

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: He interjects. Whatever ministerial portfolio the member for Sandgate goes to, a year or two later they have to shuffle him out because he is hopeless. He is absolutely hopeless, like the rest of them.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, comments through the chair, please.

Mr BLEIJIE: The minister is absolutely hopeless. He comes in here and thinks he is the brains trust in relation to the standing orders. This government has no integrity and no accountability and the health minister should resign.

(Time expired)