



Speech By  
**Kim Richards**


**MEMBER FOR REDLANDS**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2022

**MOTION**

**Office of the Integrity Commissioner**

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (5.45 pm): Wow! There really is a benefit in following on and hearing what others have to say. The member for Chatsworth said that the backbenchers' body language spoke volumes and I can tell members why. It is because of the waffle that we have had to listen to from you lot over the past few days.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Through the chair, member.

**Ms RICHARDS:** I rise to oppose the motion moved by the member for Maroochydore and support the amendment moved by the Attorney-General. We on this side of the House believe in integrity and transparency in this state. Honestly, the audacity of those on the other side to come into this House and lecture our government on integrity beggars belief as does the mudslinging that has been going on. I would love to see a show of hands from those on the other side of the House. Of those opposite, 17 members—50 per cent of the LNP opposition—stood shoulder to shoulder with Campbell Newman and 12 of them sat around the cabinet table as ministers, including the Leader of the Opposition. I will tell the House what they did: they took a wrecking ball to Queenslanders' confidence in the government's integrity, standards, transparency, accountability and good governance. Those on that side have form and you cannot rewrite that history, I am afraid. They have not practised what they preach and yet, as I have said, they have the audacity to come into this place and lecture our government on integrity.

Our government came in and picked up the pieces after the failed Newman government. It was one of the worst governments in history, level-pegging with the Bjelke-Petersen days. It was a government so marred with controversy that its reputation today in all of our electorates continues to tarnish those opposite. It was a government whose integrity—

**Mr Saunders** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Maryborough, I ask you to withdraw that comment.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I withdraw, Mr Speaker.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Be very careful. You are close to a warning.

**Ms RICHARDS:** I have spoken a lot in this place about track record and legacy because they really are the most important things that we leave behind us when we leave this place. Let us look at the integrity legacy from the Newman days: cutting staff from the CMC, sacking the PCMC in the dead of night, calling the acting head of the CMC into the premier's office to get him to write an opinion piece to support their cases, failing to delegate responsibility for right-to-information requests to their departments—and yet they want to talk about keeping Queenslanders in the dark. Wow! Look at your track record. Seventeen members on that side of the House know exactly what they did.

The headlines spoke volumes about what was at the core of their LNP values when it comes to integrity. The irony that we have the member for Maroochydore come in here today with this motion, disrespecting convention and the processes of this place, is absolutely beyond hypocrisy. We heard the member for Burleigh talk about hypocrisy. I will send you the definition for the—

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member, please resume your seat. There is a point of order. What is your point of order?

**Ms SIMPSON:** I take offence. The member is ignorant of the rules but—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Stop trying to make a statement.

**Ms SIMPSON:** I take offence and ask that it be withdrawn.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I did not hear the exact statement, but I ask you to withdraw as the member has found it offensive.

**Ms RICHARDS:** I withdraw but, Mr Speaker, I take offence—

**Mr SPEAKER:** No, unconditional withdrawal; there is no 'but'.

**Ms RICHARDS:** I give an unconditional withdrawal. I take offence at the member for Maroochydhore's comments about me.

**Mr SPEAKER:** In terms of providing commentary, the member has asked—

**Ms SIMPSON:** I withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you. Member, you have two minutes and 15 seconds remaining.

**Ms RICHARDS:** When we talk about standing up for the Integrity Commissioner, we only need to look at what was done and said. There are articles about Campbell Newman's chief of staff's abusive rant on the outgoing integrity commissioner and about calls for a judicial inquiry after the Queensland government sacked the PCMC. Honestly, the fake outrage on that side, based on their track record and their legacy, beggars belief.

Talking about public servants, of the 17 members sitting opposite how many stood up for the 14,000 sacked public servants at the time? There was silence; we heard crickets. Again, in terms of their track record, they voted against real-time disclosure laws. Those opposite demonstrated how much they value integrity in this state by voting against real-time disclosure of donations, electoral expenditure and donation cap laws and laws banning property developer donations. They took that all the way to the High Court. They established the Diamond Members Club after they knew the donation laws had been passed—just incredible!

Labor will always respect the need for strong, independent integrity measures. We know that they are fundamental to a functioning government. Minister Grace spoke well this morning when she quoted Brittany Higgins saying that actions speak louder than words. Our achievements are in stark contrast to those of the LNP. We established ministerial guidelines, the ministerial code of ethics, the original legislation enabling freedom of information, whistleblower protections and the Office of the Integrity Commissioner. I know our Premier. Queenslanders know our Premier. We know that she is a person of the utmost integrity. She always has been and she always will be. Seriously, we have listened for two days. If members of the LNP have something, they should put up or shush up. There are appropriate mechanisms. If they have an allegation, they should make it. They should stop wasting parliament's time.

*(Time expired)*