




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

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INTEGRITY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

PUBLIC SECTOR BILL

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (6.15 pm): I rise to speak in support of both of the bills that are the subject of this cognate debate. I turn firstly to the Public Sector Bill. This bill continues our reforms that have increased the job security of our hardworking Public Service workers. It is modern legislation that implements the recommendations of Peter Bridgman's review of public sector employment laws, *A fair and responsive Public Service for all*. It is a bill that backs the record numbers of Public Service workers: our teachers, health workers, emergency services personnel, just to name a few, right across our local Bundamba community. Indeed, only last week it was announced that new police recruits would be deployed to our local stations including in Goodna.

This bill supports our hardworking teachers, who are right now hard at work as term 4 comes to a close. It supports the new education staff we will need to support our community from next year when we open our brand new Ripley Central State School and Woogaroo Creek State School and the staff that will be needed for two more schools in the areas of Bellbird Park and Redbank Plains-Collingwood Park that are to open in 2024.

This bill supports the frontline health workers who worked so hard to keep our community safe during the pandemic. That includes the team at the public health centre at Goodna and at the Ipswich Hospital where we need more frontline health staff for our additional 200 beds in the acute mental health facility. It will include the staff who will be providing more world-class health care closer to home at the South Ripley satellite hospital, which is well under construction. It is going to support our energy workers at our proudly publicly owned generation stations like Swanbank and it will support the workers at our Transport and Main Roads state-of-the-art customer service centre which recently opened in Bundamba.

When we say we are delivering good jobs and better services to enhance our great Queensland lifestyle, it includes backing and growing our frontline Public Service workers. I would like to take this opportunity to place on record my thanks to every single public servant who lives in the Bundamba community, who works in the Bundamba community or who provides services to our Bundamba community because we back our Public Service, which is in stark contrast to the LNP, who sack them. They sacked 14,000 public servants—something they have never apologised for. I suspect the reason that there has been no apology is that the LNP will do it again. The LNP have recently said that they will bring forward a debt reduction plan and a service delivery strategy, but there are no details. During a contribution on this bill, the LNP leader said that he had a message for the Queensland Public Service, 'We look forward to working with you.'

Those words will send an ominous shiver down the spine of every one of our hardworking public servants, because this is the same LNP that prior to being elected to government in 2012 said to our Public Service that they had 'nothing to fear' and then sacked 14,000 workers right before Christmas. The Bridgman review made 99 recommendations but sacking ain't one. Remember when the LNP

called the then chief health officer and now Governor a 'punch-drunk bureaucrat'? This is the same LNP that ignored the advice of our public health experts by calling for the premature opening of our borders 64 times during the pandemic.

Mrs McMahon interjected.

Mr McCALLUM: I take the interjection from the member for Macalister: it is 64 times. That action would have resulted in more sickness and fatalities and would have overwhelmed our public health system. This is an opposition with no vision and no plan for our Public Service other than to sack workers and cut services.

I now turn to the second bill which is part of this cognate debate, the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The reforms contained in this bill will make Queensland's the most transparent and accountable government in the country. It will set a new benchmark for the rest of Australia to follow. The bill is the first tranche of legislation to implement the recommendations of Professor Peter Coaldrake's *Let the sunshine in* report and Kevin Yearbury's strategic review of the Integrity Commissioner's functions. The bill strengthens and enhances the independence of the Auditor-General, the Queensland Audit Office and the Integrity Commissioner. It provides for more transparency as to who may obtain the Integrity Commissioner's advice and it strengthens the regulation of lobbyists by introducing an offence for unregistered lobbying.

It is worth reflecting on the LNP's record when it comes to lobbying, because the LNP have jaw-dropping form when it comes to dodgy lobbying links. Ex-Liberal leader and Newman minister for housing and public works Bruce Flegg resigned as minister over undeclared contacts with his lobbyist son. There were plenty of integrity scandals around the LNP lobbyist outfit Entree Vous.

During the debate on these bills, LNP speakers have dutifully lined up to deliver their lines about a particular former integrity commissioner, but there is one former integrity commissioner they have not mentioned: David Solomon. When they were last in government in 2013, the LNP repeatedly rejected his calls as integrity commissioner to make lobbyists publicly accountable. It appears that not only did they ignore his advice for more accountability and transparency; they abused him. Campbell Newman's chief of staff was accused of calling the then integrity commissioner to undertake what was described by the integrity commissioner himself as an 'ill-informed abusive rant'. In my opinion, the same description would be entirely accurate of many of the LNP contributions to this debate.

What are the details of the LNP's plan for integrity, accountability and transparency in Queensland? The best that we have so far is that one of their members has been given a job title. They appointed a shadow minister for integrity in government on 16 November 2020—two years ago. What have we heard since then when it comes to policy or detail? Nothing. It has been crickets.

In government—let us make sure that never happens again—what would this minister do? Presumably the LNP would wind back the measures in this bill to lessen the independence of the Integrity Commissioner and give it more direct ministerial oversight in direct contravention of the recommendations of the Yearbury review of the Integrity Commissioner that the amendments in this bill are implementing. What acts would that particular minister be responsible for administering? The Integrity Act—would that be it? Would the job simply be to keep an eye on the Integrity Commissioner, who applies the single act that the minister might have to worry about? It is hard to know, because the LNP cannot or will not reveal the details of their plan to increase integrity, accountability and transparency, despite having two years to do so.

The real LNP integrity clanger is the fake laptop scandal—the long campaign attacking the government that claimed that the integrity commissioner's office was raided, that a laptop was seized and that there was improper disclosure of information. The LNP's so-called integrity inferno turned out to be more of an integrity no-go, with the Crime and Corruption Commission finding that, without any doubt, there was no raid and no laptop seized. What occurred was in fact wholly unremarkable and entirely ordinary, according to the CCC. I think that is the best that can be said of the LNP on this matter.

(Time expired)