




Speech By
Melissa McMahon

MEMBER FOR MACALISTER

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PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (3.55 pm): It is always a pleasure to speak following the member for Mermaid Beach. It is great to see you here at work, Ray. We missed you this morning.

I rise to speak to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee's report No. 108. I was a member of the PCCC for the duration of this inquiry. As a member who is a Logan City resident and who represents a Logan electorate, I can advise the House that in participating in this inquiry I sought advice from the Integrity Commissioner, and I tabled that written advice to the committee. None of the people mentioned in this report or who appeared before the inquiry were people I had anything other than a working relationship with in my capacity as a state member of parliament.

The events that occurred with respect to Logan City Council were worthy of an inquiry of this stature. Any instance where an elected body is removed, where the will of the constituency is overruled, with ultimately no tangible outcome, needs due consideration. Our democracy, no matter how messy, is a precious commodity.

I recognise the secretariat and staff who worked on this inquiry for several months. I acknowledge the work and expertise of the committee's appointed counsel assisting, Dr Jonathan Horton QC and Mr Ben McMillan. There were thousands and thousands of pages that were submitted to the inquiry from the CCC to assist us in our deliberations. There were 10 days of public hearings. This was and will be one of the most critical inquiries that this parliament has conducted.

The inquiry's recommendations have been acknowledged in this House and canvassed at length by some in the media, and I would like to commend the Palaszczuk government's response in the appointment of Tony Fitzgerald QC to follow through on some of those recommendations. I have the utmost faith in the work he will do. I know that it will be ultimately to the betterment of the CCC.

I fully support the Crime and Corruption Commission and the work it does. I believe it is amongst the best—if not the best—corruption detection and investigation bodies in this country. I say that as a former police officer. There has certainly been no love lost between myself and the toecutters from time to time. However, from the four years that I have been a member of the PCCC I have a brand new appreciation for the work the organisation, its staff and its seconded officers do—something I certainly never had before stepping into this House. It is a necessary organisation and it has my full support. Imagine what it would have been like to have at the federal level such an effective organisation that doggedly pursued corruption allegations, regardless of whether or not the subject was an elected official. The member for Warrego wants to talk about a government integrity crisis. I suggest she looks to Canberra. This does not mean that the CCC as an organisation and as individuals cannot do and be better. At the end of the day, that is what the inquiry was about.

The inquiry was not to relitigate the accusations made against the former Logan City councillors. It was not to test the evidence or sufficiency of it. If the member for Mermaid Beach had actually read the report he would know that the report does not make any conclusion about the innocence or

otherwise of those former councillors. That was not the role of the inquiry. Rather, it was to examine the processes that led to the charges that were laid and why they were ultimately withdrawn. As the member for Mount Ommaney pointed out, it is a voluminous report of many pages. There are several recommendations and the member for—