



Speech By  
**Nikki Boyd**


**MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS**

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## **INTEGRITY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

### **PUBLIC SECTOR BILL**

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (12.21 pm): I rise to contribute to the cognate debate on the Public Sector Bill 2022 and the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. I start by thanking the hardworking public servants of Queensland. I put on record how valued and appreciated they are by the Palaszczuk Labor government. Both my mother and father were public servants during their career. I know just how hard they worked and what a vital contribution they made to our community and to the state of Queensland. There is one party that will look after public servants in the state of Queensland, and that is the Australian Labor Party.

The LNP in opposition have had no change to the approach they took to the Public Service through their very short tenure in government when 14,000 public servants were cut without apology and without remorse. We see election after election that this is still the policy they are taking to the people of Queensland. The Leader of the Opposition got up here yesterday and, upon reflection of their own record, said he grieves about losing his own job, his own position, being booted out of the seat of Mundubberra and having to scurry down to the coast to find a safe seat that he displaced a woman to take! I think it is absolutely outrageous and it speaks to how tone deaf this opposition is here in Queensland.

We saw in 2014, under a Newman government, seven estimates hearings over two days. Peter Wellington, an Independent member of this House at the time, called it a 'sham', a 'total waste of time', a 'deliberate attempt to stifle scrutiny' of the Newman government. There is faux outrage here over a 10-minute speech, but the voting record of this parliament on a Friday while we have been sitting demonstrates the commitment that those opposite have when in fact they are not even here to vote on divisions in the House.

I felt so sorry for the member for Condamine last week when there were no divisions despite opposition. The LNP claims that they want to be valued and respected, that they want frank and fearless advice, but we did not see that when they were in government and we have not seen that today. When they were in government, Campbell Newman's chief of staff was accused of phoning the then integrity commissioner David Solomon in a conversation that was described by the integrity commissioner as an 'ill-informed, abusive rant'. In a report the integrity commissioner state—

Several days later, on a Sunday, I received an extraordinary phone call from the Premier's chief of staff, Mr Ben Myers, attacking me of having criticised the Government and saying 'we' could no longer have faith in my integrity.

I also pick up on the points that the deputy opposition leader, the member for Kawana, has made today around the integrity commissioner Linda Waugh, who is a well-respected independent officer. The appointment was only made after consultation with the committee as dictated under the act. The appointment the Deputy Leader of the Opposition referred to took place almost two decades ago. It was

for a period of three months. Since then, Ms Waugh has worked in a number of integrity positions across state and federal governments, and they include the Victorian assistant ombudsman, the New South Wales deputy ombudsman and the executive director of the Independent Commission Against Corruption. She has served under a federal coalition government. Her credentials are beyond reproach. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition is unfit to hold his position, and the Leader of the Opposition will not pull him into line.

The opposition absolutely have no integrity when it comes to things like this. We saw them gagging community groups during their term in government. That was likened to the Joh goon squad of the Special Branch era. We have seen a bullyboy culture that is not just contained to when the LNP are in government; their party unit is also rife with it. In September 2021 the *Courier-Mail* reported on the toxic culture claims that put Queensland LNP headquarters in turmoil as an election was looming. Allegations of a toxic workplace culture at LNP headquarters saw some leave after 48 hours of walking in the door. The article states—

One senior LNP source said the situation at the organisation's headquarters was like a "slow train wreck".

It reminds me of Lawrence Springborg's comments when he was the health minister saying, 'Get on the train or get under it,' when referring to the staff sackings there. Another *Courier-Mail* source said the loss of staff was a 'massive failure of the party's leadership'. A high-ranking source said, 'Letting this happen is unforgivable and a massive failure of the party's leadership.' The article states—

The LNP did not address questions about alleged workplace culture issues or if formal complaints had been made to the party's leadership including Mr Springborg.

This culture that we see from the LNP is not just contained to attacking the Public Service when they are in government; it is obvious that it is just how they do business. It is how they operate. We see it day to day, and we are seeing it within their party unit at the moment.

I also want to talk to the points raised around ministerial integrity, having open data and having ministerial accountability. We did not see that through the individual donation scandals that the LNP had while in government—whether it was Sibelco, the Maroochy River Caravan Park, the Airlie Beach Marina, the boot camp contract or the New Hope Coal mine. There were a number of integrity scandals in terms of the donations the LNP had that were tied to key decisions they made while in government that have huge question marks around them. To come in here and lecture the Palaszczuk government over our performance in government is really quite rich because we know that they in fact do not hold integrity when it comes to these things. They were there for three years and they have a list of individual scandals that goes on and on and on.

I also reflect on—because it was an astonishing moment in time—the admonishment that happened to the member for Warrego here in this place when she was found guilty of misleading two parliamentary committees after disclosing confidential committee details over a documents bungle that she blew the whistle on. How is this? You want to be a whistleblower but you are going to do yourselves in to do it! I think it is outrageous that that member of parliament is currently sitting on the front bench of the opposition and hopes to be a minister of the Crown when this is the record that she has in this place.

When it comes to failing to declare their meetings with lobbyists, there is a long list as well. I do not think it was a very strong choice when the member for Clayfield failed to declare a meeting with Singapore Power before it was later revealed he met with them during a trade mission to discuss the possible sale of Queensland's energy assets. That is not a strong choice. It is certainly not a strong choice committing \$80 million of Queensland taxpayers' money to a campaign. The member for Clayfield has form on this too—Crosby Textor. Also looking to have the privatisation message to sell the government's assets, he had staff embedded in his own office.

Let's not talk about having things at arm's length, because that is not the record of the LNP. If you want to throw stones about it, let's be really clear about your own record too. Let's reflect on Bruce Flegg's resignation over an undeclared contract with his lobbyist son.

**Mr Mander:** He resigned!

**Ms BOYD:** He did resign. I take the interjection from the member for Everton. He resigned on the issue, unlike the member for Mundingburra—no, hang on, what's her name? Mudgeeraba—

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms BOYD:** Yes, she was quite sick. Thanks for reflecting on that.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Through the chair, please.

**Ms BOYD:** The member for Mudgeeraba resigned over ill health issues in the midst of a scandal. Oh, I wonder what was going on there. I think everyone sees through that. It was also revealed at the 2013 estimates that the member for Kawana—



**Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (12.35 pm), continuing: Third time is not a charm, it would seem. Can I just pick up where I left off in terms of the member for Mudgeeraba—and I will get the title right—who failed to disclose a lunch with lobbyists, saying that she was there to address a keynote speech. We saw the form demonstrated by members opposite time and time again when they were on the government benches, but what is worse is the mudslinging that continues now that they are on the opposition benches. The LNP ran a long, concerted campaign attacking the government, claiming that the Integrity Commissioner's office was raided, that her laptop was seized and that there was improper disclosure of information by an officer working in the integrity office. Do you know what? That did not stack up either.

The CCC released a report on 4 July which showed there was no evidence of improper disclosure, the circumstances in which the laptops were taken was entirely ordinary, and that there was no evidence to suggest these arrangements led to any improper access of confidential information from the Integrity Commissioner. Has there been an apology? You want to have a shadow minister for integrity, but I do not see any integrity in the behaviour that exists when the LNP throws out spurious claims like this—in fact, they are accusations—that are unfounded and found to be completely untrue, yet it stands by them. They do not correct the public record, they do not apologise and they have no integrity at all. I think their record demonstrates that. I commend the bills to the House.