



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 February 2022

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Whistleblower Protection**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.13 am): It has come to my attention that yesterday the Leader of the Opposition made a statement to the effect that he has been made aware of certain allegations and the people making those allegations are requesting protection as whistleblowers. For the benefit of the Leader of the Opposition and the House, I can confirm that such protections are already afforded under the Public Interest Disclosure Act. The act stipulates that.

... a Member of the Legislative Assembly to whom a public interest disclosure is made under section 14 may refer the disclosure to another public sector entity if the member considers the referral entity has power to investigate or remedy the conduct or other matter that is the subject of the disclosure.

The act goes on to state that 'the member has no role in investigating the disclosure'. It is clear that the Leader of the Opposition believes that these allegations warrant the further attention of an investigative body.

The Public Interest Disclosure Act includes serious consequences if there is reprisal action against a person who has made a public interest disclosure—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my left, the Attorney-General appears to be making a factual statement and I would ask that you listen to the statement as I wish to.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** The Public Interest Disclosure Act as well has protections against reckless disclosure of confidential information. Therefore, I urge the Leader of the Opposition to treat the allegations he claims to know about with the utmost importance and refer them to the CCC. The CCC is Queensland's standing royal commission. It has all the powers of a royal commission. Legal protections for whistleblowers exist under the Public Disclosure Act, introduced by a Labor government. There is absolutely no excuse for the Leader of the Opposition. He must show some integrity himself and he must act on any allegations he is aware of.