



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**

**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 February 2022

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Integrity in Government**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (2.30 pm): The Palaszczuk government is absolutely committed to ensuring Queenslanders can have the utmost confidence in our integrity institutions. That is why we acted decisively on the recommendations from the PCCC's report into the Logan City Council matter. As part of the implementation of those recommendations, we have established a commission of inquiry into the CCC's charging powers and the use of seconded police officers and it is to be headed by a giant of Queensland anti-corruption history—Tony Fitzgerald AC, QC. This will ensure that Queenslanders can have confidence in their anti-corruption watchdog.

We have also established a wideranging review into culture and accountability in Queensland's public sector, headed by Professor Peter Coaldrake AO. Professor Coaldrake is a highly respected academic. His review will ensure the Public Service in this state is operating to the highest level of integrity, accountability and impartiality. Of course, that is in addition to all of the strong and robust measures we have introduced to increase integrity in government: restoring \$1,000 as the donation disclosure threshold after those opposite increased it to over \$12,000; implementing the real-time disclosure of donations; banning property developer donations; and reintroducing electoral expenditure caps after the LNP abolished them. Those opposite have fought us on every single one of those integrity measures. Why? It is because those opposite have no real interest in integrity or accountability, good governance or proper process! They care about one thing only: taking any opportunity to get their faces in front of a camera and saying whatever is necessary to try to make Queenslanders forget their own dark history.

Last week the member for Kawana had the audacity to stand up with the Leader of the Opposition and try to lecture this government on integrity. Give me a break! The member for Kawana was attorney-general in the Newman-Crisafulli government—the worst government for integrity since that of Joh Bjelke-Petersen. Let us not forget that the former solicitor-general, now the Hon. Justice Walter Sofronoff—one of the most respected members of the Queensland legal profession—resigned in disgust in 2014 after the member for Kawana leaked confidential discussions with the judiciary to the press because it suited his political motives. Walter Sofronoff called on the then attorney-general to resign. The president of the Bar Association quit in protest as well. He too said that the then attorney-general should resign. Lawyers, barristers, judges and senior legal figures—you name it—all lined up, one after the other, to denounce him as untrustworthy.

The then attorney-general also admitted to deleting his emails. I have since referred that matter to the State Archivist for investigation. He failed to declare meetings with lobbyists in his ministerial diary. He awarded boot camp and court transcription service contracts to LNP donors, and he sacked the PCMC in the middle of the night because they were concerned about the acting chair of the CMC misleading the committee over a hack job op-ed—

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Mudgeeraba, you can leave the chamber for one hour. You have already been warned.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Mudgeeraba withdrew from the chamber at 2.35 pm.*

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I do not remember him making a peep when Campbell Newman's chief of staff called up the then integrity commissioner, David Solomon, on a Sunday, blasting him in an 'ill-informed, abusive rant' for criticising the government. In Mr Solomon's 2013-14 annual report, he wrote that the then premier's chief of staff told him they could no longer have faith in his integrity. All of this, yet the member for Kawana still believes he is in a position to lecture anyone on integrity. If he had any integrity whatsoever, perhaps he would have taken Justice Sofronoff's advice back in 2014.

Perhaps he and others on that side of the House should be more inclined to stand up and ask why the LNP in Canberra is refusing to introduce a bill for a federal ICAC. It seems like every day the headlines are about sports rorts, car park rorts, 'grassgate', Peter Dutton interfering with community safety grant allocations, yet the Prime Minister thinks that a federal ICAC is not a priority and neither do those opposite apparently. Not one of them will answer questions about why they do not think it is important for the federal government to have a federal anti-corruption watchdog. If the Leader of the Opposition actually cared about integrity, he would pick up the phone, call Scott Morrison and ask him to put in place a federal watchdog.

*(Time expired)*