



Speech By  
**Steve Minnikin**


**MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2022

**MOTION**

**Office of the Integrity Commissioner**

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (5.20 pm): I want to pick up on one thing from the previous speaker, the member for Sandgate, in relation to trashing integrity and trashing parliamentary procedures and values. I stand to be corrected, but I believe it was the member for Sandgate who was the self-appointed architect of the changes to CPV with 18 minutes notice. To come in here and to—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** Yes, 18 minutes notice; I take the interjections from the entire LNP. Normally at this juncture during the parliamentary sitting week sometimes this five o'clock to six o'clock debate is referred to as the one-hour scream, but I am going to be pretty measured and careful with the words I use tonight because it is pretty obvious that when you look at the body language this week of particularly the backbench of the ALP they know that this whole notion of integrity is really starting to bite. Most people do not really care a great deal what goes on in this chamber, but do members know what? When it comes to issues like the laptop, in my electorate this particular issue is the one that is resonating. I absolutely support the motion moved by the member for Maroochydore because, at the end of the day—

**Mr Hinchliffe** interjected.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** They only accept people of integrity, so I am sure we could probably get you in, member for Sandgate. The reality is that we have a situation here where this can be absolutely cleared very quickly because the Attorney-General said that it is the committee system that rules supreme. I believe it is the floor of parliament right now that rules supreme. We are the ones, collectively, who make the rules here. This is the House. The committees have an important role to play, but this is where we make the decisions. The choice is pretty straightforward for those opposite including the member for Sandgate, who purports to be the purveyor of all things historically correct in relation to Queensland, but I would take him up on the facts and suggest that it is probably fifty-fifty what he actually gets right.

The simple fact is the best way for this to be cleared is for these documents to be released, because there are many questions that are yet to be answered. I will go through a couple of them. What did the Premier know before she referred the matter to the committee? Did she know that the CCC had previously investigated the matter? What were the matters that were referred to the committee? How old were the matters that were referred? It goes on though: has the committee finalised its investigation? Were there any adverse findings from the committee? Information that has come out of question time in the last couple of days is absolutely damning on the office of the Premier. Everyone is innocent until proven guilty—we all know that fact—but the reality is that there are questions that need to be answered here.

The simple fact of the matter is this: what goes around can sometimes come around. I am old enough to know what it was like to go home and watch the TV channels back then—Seven, Nine and Channel 0 before it became Channel 10 and then later the ABC—to see what had unfurled that day at

the Fitzgerald inquiry. It was damning and the Fitzgerald report absolutely needed to be done at that time. Here we are now 30 years later where we have a three-term government where hubris has well and truly kicked in. It has certainly kicked in. There was one particular former member who thought that this was her own personal playground. No-one is above the law and no-one is above—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** I have not named the member. The fact of the matter is that no-one is above the law and no-one is above this chamber. The simple facts of the matter are this: we have an integrity crisis which goes to the heart of the way this government is now operating and the essential question that needs to be asked is what difference does that make to everyday Queenslanders' lives? Everything, because when we have a government that is so focused on trying to cover-up, shuffle things around, have a Clayton's investigation—you know, the investigation you have when you are not trying too hard to have a real investigation—the people of Queensland suffer, with ministers not being on top of their briefs and delivering the services that Queenslanders, who pay their taxes, deserve.

*(Time expired)*