




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

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MOTION

Office of the Integrity Commissioner

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (5.52 pm): Trust is one of the most important qualities that the Queensland public looks for in its government. Once that trust is lost, it is extremely difficult to win it back. Is there any greater example of a lessening of trust than what happened with the Bligh government in 2009? Within a few short months of election the government sold the assets of this state—a government that had the Premier and the Treasurer as part of its cabinet.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Minister for Public Works and member for Theodore, you both are warned for quarrelling across the chamber.

Mr MANDER: In the words of that well-known philosopher Benny Elias, it's *deja vu* all over again. The alleged interference in the Integrity Commissioner's office is symbolic of the integrity issues plaguing this government. The fact that the government will not support this motion tonight shows that the integrity rot has set in and will not go away.

As is the case with all governments that eventually have serious integrity issues, they start off small and grow as people get bolder and bolder. When you have the Treasurer of the state claiming that he found the Binna Burra bell, emerging from the parched, fire damaged woods in pristine clothes—when you get away with that sort of thing, you start thinking you can do other things. When you have the police and corrective services minister using families of homicide victims as political pawns, you start thinking you can get away with a bit more. When you have ministers using private emails to conduct government business, you start getting bolder and think, 'We can get away with anything.' It gets bigger and bigger and we get more significant breaches of integrity.

What about when the Deputy Premier as health minister bodgied up a poll to justify the name change of the Lady Cilento hospital? When the Premier's chief of staff receives a government grant for his private company and then resigns mysteriously a couple of months later, you wonder why they do not start getting bolder and bolder—as they have. Then we have the queen of them all, Jackie Trad: buying properties that will appreciate in value because of government development; ringing the CCC chair on a Sunday to talk about a matter before the CCC that involves her; and, of course, the interference in the appointment of a school principal. The Premier came into this place and talked about respect for the institutions of this state, but she will go down in history as the only Premier in Australia to have been held in contempt of parliament. That shows that these words are totally and utterly hollow.

What happens when you continue this form and breach integrity over seven years? They think they can get away with it, but eventually it comes home to roost when good, honest public servants in control of bodies that oversight the integrity of the state come out and say, 'Enough is enough.'

As my colleague the member for Scenic Rim said, members opposite try to mix the separation of power with the role this parliament plays. The parliament is not a subcommittee of the Economic and Governance Committee; the parliament is the ultimate committee. We represent the people of

Queensland and we decide what should happen. What they are crying out for now is what the Premier promised seven years ago: transparency and openness. I do not know about my colleagues, but now when I travel anywhere this issue is on everybody's lips: 'What the heck is happening in there? Why do we have to wait 2½ years for an election?' Unless those opposite support motions such as this, they will continue to be known as the most corrupt, dirty, rotten government since the Bligh government.