




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 28 March 2023

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Liberal National Party, Performance; Member for Southern Downs

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (2.10 pm): There is one thing on which I do agree with the Leader of the Opposition—and it is about the only thing now—and that is that we wish Marty all the very best. Now that New South Wales is led by Labor, I can understand why he is moving from the Gold Coast to New South Wales.

What a victory it was in New South Wales. It shows one thing. It shows that when you have policies on privatisation, when you are talking about public sector entitlement caps and when you are talking about police and teachers, it is more than just rhetoric—you have to deliver. All we heard from the Leader of the Opposition once again today was nothing but rhetoric. There was not one policy idea; not one concrete thing was said in the last five minutes. It is not the people we are calling whingers; it is the LNP we are calling the whingers and the whiners. Let me tell honourable members that is what the people of Queensland are saying to us when we meet them. Even on Sunday night when I was out, people were coming up and saying, 'You guys are doing a great job,' rather than the whingeing and the whining we get from those opposite. The Leader of the Opposition is the biggest whinger and whiner of them all.

When they start talking about candidates more than they talk about their own backbench, I would be worried if I were a member of the opposition.

An honourable member interjected.

Ms GRACE: I do not know what you are pointing—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): When I am on my feet the House will come to order. Member for Burdekin, you are warned for continuing on. The level of interjection is well out of control. I would ask the House to maintain its dignity.

Ms GRACE: They just do not know how to take it. If I was a member of the opposition backbench I would be very worried as well.

When it comes to the government we have plans and we are delivering them. We know that the housing crisis is not just impacting Queensland; it is impacting the whole nation. Those opposite know that. However, they fabricate these crises and chaos thinking that the more they say it, the more it will be true. They have to do more than that about the issues that are confronting Queenslanders. They know who it is who delivers for them and it is the Palaszczuk government.

On another matter, on 28 October last year during consideration in detail on the IR bill the member for Southern Downs made comments reflecting on the QIRC and the Hon. Justice Peter Davis. I found it odd considering he has no background in IR but he certainly had a lot to say. I notice that the

Leader of the Opposition and the member for Kawana let him have free reign. We also noticed that the member was up there talking to the Red Union and obviously then puppeteering him and giving him the speech they needed to have delivered.

The comments made by the member for Southern Downs were troubling and called into question the independence of the well-respected Supreme Court justice and the commission. I wrote to the Speaker in November regarding a potential breach of standing orders. On 21 February I was pleased to see that the member apologised unreservedly. As is the usual process, all documents relating to this matter were tabled in the parliament on 22 February, and how enlightening they were. Lo and behold, those documents showed a clear link between the member and the Red Union hub. The most telling of all emails, which they tried to retract, was an email link sent by the member himself—

Honourable members interjected.

Ms GRACE: Just listen.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry to interrupt. I am trying to pay close attention to the contribution here and I am sure the Acting Clerk is also trying to pay attention to what the minister is contributing. I would like to hear this statement in silence.

Ms GRACE: It showed a clear link between the member for Southern Downs, the Red Union hub and shared legal representation. In fact, one of the ccs was—

'Red Union (Trading Name), NPAA SERVICES PTY LTD (Client)' jack.mcguire @ redunion.com.au

The issue there is exactly who was the client in representing the member for Southern Downs? The emails from Emma Watson, an employee of Saines Legal, which cc-ed the Red Union described NPAA Services as the client. If that entity is described as the client we can reasonably conclude that they are the ones who paid for the legal advice for the member for Southern Downs. If they are the client, what is the member for Southern Downs?

The Red Union not only pulled the strings during the debate but were also directly involved in the member's response to the Speaker about the extremely serious matter of a breach of standing orders. I think the member for Southern Downs has some explaining to do. It shows the tangled web over there with the fake unions.

The member for Southern Downs has not declared the benefit. I will be writing to the Clerk of the Parliament in relation to this matter for it to be investigated. He has been exposed.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will come to order.