



Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2023

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**CFMEU and Office of Industrial Relations; Gabba Redevelopment; Comments by  
Member for Kawana, Apology**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): For years I have been talking to workplace health and safety officers in the Office of Industrial Relations in Queensland, and they have been giving me and the Crime and Corruption Commission information. They have been brave whistleblowers. Today their concerns have been vindicated by the Office of Industrial Relations. On 6 March, Queensland Industrial Relations Commission Vice-President O'Connor handed down a judgement with regard to senior officer Helen Burgess. I have raised that name on many occasions, in Estimates and in parliament. The judgement states—

Ms Burgess accepts that on 6 July 2021 she received a text message on her personal mobile phone from Beau Seiffert, Construction, Forestry, Mining & Energy, Industrial Union of Employees, Queensland (CFMEU) which consisted of five photographs—

complaining of a business in Queensland. It continues—

Ms Burgess also accepts she then forwarded the text message from Mr Seiffert from her personal mobile phone to Mark Houston's (Operations Manager, OIR) personal mobile phone.

The workplace health and safety officers have been vindicated. We have been saying this has been happening for years; now a judge has confirmed it. Ms Burgess appealed the decision that was handed down, but one of the allegations was substantiated. I am relieved for all of the workplace health and safety officers that Ms Burgess has been found to have liaised with the CFMEU using her personal mobile phone.

The judgement also reflects that the respondents—the minister's own department—expressed concern to Ms Burgess that using her personal mobile phone to communicate with the CFMEU may cause distress in the community that the office is not independent. I have been saying this, and warning Minister Grace about this, for six years.

On another matter, we see the government today scrambling away from the costings for the Gabba. We asked them specifically today what costings the Premier relied on for the Gabba announcement of \$1 billion. Nothing—zip, zilch. There has been nothing from the Premier with respect to accountability and transparency with respect to the Gabba. They picked this number out of thin air and announced it to get on the world stage and the red carpet. What a disgraceful lack of appreciation for Queensland taxpayers' money. The government must respond with more answers.

In the time remaining, I raise an issue that has been brought to my attention. On 21 February I said in the debate of the business program motion that the opposition and crossbench could not amend a business program motion. That is not correct. What I was referencing at the time was after the House has already agreed to it. I certainly did not intend to mislead the House, and I unreservedly apologise to the House.