




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2023

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Crime and Corruption Commission

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (2.12 pm): Yesterday was judgement day for integrity in Queensland. Yesterday was judgement day for the Palaszczuk Labor government. When the High Court delivered its decision in the Carne matter it sent a clear message that this Labor government needs to act to ensure the essence of the Fitzgerald report is not lost in Queensland. What did Fitzgerald say? He said—

Therefore, inquiries such as this, which the disaffected can impugn as “political”, must remain one of the options which the community reserves to itself in order to supervise and control public administration and the exercise of power.

This was also highlighted by Mr Barbour, the chair of the CCC, in his statement yesterday when he said—

Having the ability to report on matters relating to its investigations is vital so the public, the public sector and elected officials can understand the reasons for and outcomes of CCC investigations.

The inability to report on matters uncovered in such investigations reduces transparency and is clearly not in the public interest.

I repeat: it is not in the public interest, and it is not the first time either. That was said by Mr MacSparran in his submission to the subsequent Fitzgerald inquiry when he said—

This will most often translate to the outcome of an investigation leading to charges being brought or if not, a public report which transparently details the nature of the investigation ...

What is happening here in Queensland? Why will the Premier and the Attorney-General not commit to change the legislation to allow the CCC to report on its investigations that are vital to public confidence in Queensland’s public sector? They have been given every opportunity over the last two days to commit to making the changes, whatever they might be and however complex they might be, so people can have confidence in the public sector. Why are they refusing to do so? Is it because these two investigations are reports into two Labor luminaries? Why has this Palaszczuk Labor government been so uncharacteristically quiet on these matters?

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Pause the clock. What is your point of order?

Mr BAILEY: The honourable member in his contribution is alleging things the government has not done. The government has said that we will seek legal advice and that is all. He ought not to mislead the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will seek some advice. That is not a point of order. There is a process to address that.

Mr NICHOLLS: As I say, the reports are into two Labor luminaries, one of whom is a very, very good friend of the minister who just took the point of order. Why has the government failed to do so? Honourable members should remember this government is funding former deputy premier Trad's legal action and it is not a defence, it is an attack. It is trying to stop the presentation of a report by the state's Integrity Commission, a report into the appointment of an under treasurer. That is funding that this government has hidden for the last two years despite extensive questions. There has been no explanation, just deceit and ducking and weaving. It is a protection racket.

It is this government that knows it is doing the wrong thing. It is the chaos and crisis of Labor that is causing the loss of confidence in the integrity of the public sector in the state of Queensland.

(Time expired)