



Speech By  
**Fiona Simpson**


**MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE**

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Record of Proceedings, 5 March 2024

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Miles Labor Government, Lobbyists**

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (2.27 pm): I am proud to be a woman. I can define what a woman is, despite the Minister for Health failing to know. I want to address the integrity issues that are burning at the heart of this dodgy, rotten government—from the Premier admitting that he misled the House to the influence of lobbyists in the halls of power of this government where there is more than just a sniff about them not being appropriately registered. The fact is that the Premier fails to take action until he gets asked questions by the media.

If you needed more evidence that this government has walked away from integrity, you need to look no further than how cosy Labor is with lobbyists. After days of scrutiny, we have the stage-managed resignation of Kate Jones—is she a lobbyist; isn't she not a lobbyist; she is a special consultant working for a lobbyist—is more evidence that this government has learned nothing and shows how close they are to Labor lobbyists. This is Anacta 2.0. Queenslanders have not forgotten Anacta—the Labor lobbyists who ran the 2020 campaign for Labor, not at Labor Party headquarters but ensconced in the executive building at 1 William Street.

This government is addicted to Labor lobbying firms. We saw how close this Labor government is to Labor-aligned lobbying firms in Kate Jones's text to Premier Steven Miles this morning. It only proves that they have learnt nothing. The reaction from the Premier was too little too late. Minutes before question time, former Labor cabinet minister Kate Jones apparently texted Premier Steven Miles to say that she was resigning from her work for a firm which was undertaking lobbying in Queensland. This is only after the media had revealed her links and meetings with this government as a 'special consultant' through the lobbying firm Akin. The lobbying firm Akin was registered in Queensland days before Anastacia Palaszczuk was removed as Premier. Now Kate Jones is credited for helping force premier Palaszczuk's resignation and in bringing about the elevation of her mate, the member for Murrumba, Steven Miles, to the role of Premier with her factional support.

This firm's only registered lobbyist is a former ministerial staffer of Kate Jones. However, Kate Jones was not registered as a lobbyist, despite recent scandals of unregistered lobbying and Labor mates being paid for their influence and access to the halls of power. When Kate Jones texted the Leader of the Opposition shortly before question time to advise that she was resigning from this company and then she texted the Premier to advise him that she had advised the Leader of the Opposition of this, the integrity smell over this government did not go away. The Premier's assertion until this point was, 'What's everyone worried about? Kate Jones is just a mate. We have known each other for years. Nothing to see here.'

**An opposition member:** 'We've been doing deals for years.'

**Ms SIMPSON:** The whole thing with these Labor lobbyists is that they are mates; they have known each other for years. They have learned nothing. The scandal over Anacta running Labor's campaign still had not registered with Premier Steven Miles, nor had the strong words in Coaldrake's report about people lobbying as third parties. I remind the Premier that Coaldrake in his report *Let the sunshine in* recommended all professionals offering paid lobbying services to third parties be registered.

The Premier still has serious questions to answer. I have asked the Integrity Commissioner to investigate how deep these lobbying relationships go within this government. The Coaldrake review exposed the dodgy, rotten behaviour of this government, and it is clear that nothing has changed under Premier Steven Miles.

Labor have given up on governing for people. They are more interested in governing for themselves. They are choosing their own political interests over the interests of Queenslanders, and the chaos and crisis under Labor continues under the Miles government. They have learned nothing. They care not for the ordinary people because it is more about staying in power than serving them and addressing the health crisis, the cost-of-living crisis, the crime crisis and the housing crisis that this government have been at the heart of.

*(Time expired)*