




Speech By
Hon. Lance McCallum

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

Record of Proceedings, 20 August 2024

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Member for Broadwater

 **Hon. LR McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (2.33 pm): We are at a pivotal time in our state's history. In just a few short weeks, Queenslanders will have a very important choice to make—a choice about our future, a choice between a Miles Labor government with a clear and detailed vision for Queensland and an LNP opposition who are unknown and who are determined to stay that way. The Leader of the Opposition wants to slide into the office of premier by revealing as little as possible about both his past and his future plans. It is clear that, beneath the slick slogans, Queenslanders cannot trust a word that the Leader of the Opposition says.

We know from media revelations that he ran a small business that went bust and left Queenslanders out of pocket. Queensland businesses were owed money and students were left high and dry. In fact, the liquidators suspect that the Leader of the Opposition's company traded while insolvent—a criminal offence. We have also learned of \$200,000 in undisclosed secret payments while he was a shadow minister, the third and final instalment of which was made after he became the Leader of the Opposition. We learned about these payments not because of any false virtues of transparency but because of the media. That is how it has come to light.

The more that we learn about the SET Solutions scandal the murkier it gets. The list of unanswered questions continues to grow in light of ongoing media reports. Was he the sole director of a company that was trading while insolvent? Why did he leave a host of unpaid business debts? How much of taxpayer funds were intended for a consultancy that he is linked to? Why keep payments of over \$200,000 secret and not disclose them to the parliament? Are there more liabilities that are being hidden from Queenslanders?

As serious as all of those questions are, there is perhaps another important question. What was his role as a minister in the Newman government that oversaw a payment of \$300,000 to the company that he subsequently took over before cutting and running from debts owed? If he cannot run a small business with openness and transparency, how can the LNP possibly be trusted to run our economy?

We have just heard from the member for McConnell. I know that the Hamilton Hotel is owed about \$8,000 by SET Solutions. With a total of \$2.7 million owed to creditors, there are many more. Some of the unsecured creditors of SET Solutions in the hospitality sector alone include the Bracken Ridge Tavern, Carrara Catering Services, the Hinterland Hotel in the electorate of Gaven, Hotel Metropol and the Mansfield Hotel—likely the ones in Townsville—the Robina Tavern, the Logan City Tavern and even Waxy's Irish Pub in Surfers Paradise. There are literally pages and pages more.

This is what Queenslanders can expect from the LNP. Queenslanders deserve better than dodgy deals, shady scams and broken promises. It is about time the LNP practices what it preaches on transparency, on integrity and on accountability. Be honest with the people of Queensland. Tell the truth and the whole truth about SET Solutions. Stop hiding the past and come clean with Queenslanders about your real plans for the future.