




Speech By
Hon. Meaghan Scanlon

MEMBER FOR GAVEN

Record of Proceedings, 10 September 2024

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Member for Broadwater

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works) (2.21 pm): It is always great to follow the member for Kawana's theatrics. He is the planning minister for the opposition who could not even come up with enough questions during estimates so he left early. That is how much the LNP care about planning and housing in this state.

It has been 42 days since the news broke of the Leader of the Opposition's connections to the failed SET Solutions and 42 days that Queenslanders still do not have the answers to the questions that have been put forward. The Leader of the Opposition has refused to front this chamber, has refused to front media and has refused to front Queenslanders.

Ms Richards: That says it all.

Ms SCANLON: I take the member's interjection—it says it all. Deflection after deflection, it gets murkier every single day. The Leader of the Opposition said he had no links to LNP donors but then it was proven that, in fact, he did. He said he left the company with no obligations and no findings against him, but it has been reported that he was pursued in court and paid \$200,000 in hush money to liquidators.

When I was last in this chamber during matters of public interest, I asked some very simple questions.

Mr Langbroek interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection of the member for Surfers Paradise. I would love it if the Leader of the Opposition would provide that information to the *Gold Coast Bulletin* or any media for that matter. That is the point: you continue to refuse to answer basic questions.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Direct your comments through the chair.

Ms SCANLON: When I was last in this chamber, I asked about the Leader of the Opposition's comments when he said he was promised a major capital injection. I asked, 'Who made that promise?' I asked, 'How much was that promise for?' I asked, 'What did he offer in return for that promise?' How did he secure the Newman government grant for companies to establish a call centre for jobs and training in Townsville?

Opposition members interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I note many of the interjections from those opposite. I know they do not like these questions. They do not want to answer them but they are very simple questions that the Leader of the Opposition should answer. Did he disclose that the director of two companies was also a donor to his 2012 campaign? How did he become the sole director of SET Solutions, the training company included

in the call centre venture less than 12 months later? Why did he say that creditors were paid when hundreds were not? Why do liquidators suspect he was trading while insolvent? Did he know that that was the case? None of those questions has been answered. If the Leader of the Opposition cannot be up-front about his dodgy and shady business record, what else is he hiding from Queensland?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I ask you to withdraw the unparliamentary language.

Ms SCANLON: I withdraw, Deputy Speaker. There is a pattern of secrecy emerging from the Leader of the Opposition. On the weekend, the *Gold Coast Bulletin* revealed the Leader of the Opposition does not, in fact, live in the electorate that he supposedly represents.

Mrs Frecklington: And where does the minister live? Yeronga, any chance? Where does the minister live? Where does the minister spend her time?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Nanango.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the member for Nanango. I live in Nerang, in the community that I grew up in. I continue to live there to this day.

Mrs Frecklington: Come on, Minister!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Please resume your seat, Minister. Member for Nanango, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms SCANLON: The member for Broadwater continues to do everything in his power to suppress and hide the fact that he does not live on the Gold Coast. He cut and run.

Ms Richards interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection of the member for Redlands. He cut and run on Townsville and now, evidently, he is cutting and running on the Gold Coast. I wonder what Verity Barton thinks about these actions. She, of course, was the youngest woman ever elected to this parliament. The Leader of the Opposition claims to be some sort of self-proclaimed feminist, some ally of women. Instead, time and time again we have seen him do the complete opposite when given the opportunity. He destroyed the career of the youngest woman in parliament. That is the decision he made by taking that seat off the youngest woman in parliament.

I am a proud born-and-bred Gold Coaster and I am very pleased to continue to live in the community that I grew up in and very proud to represent it. What Gold Coasters do not deserve is to be treated like mugs, and that is what the Leader of the Opposition is doing by misleading his community. If the Leader of the Opposition cannot tell the truth about his business dealings, if he cannot tell the truth about where he lives, what else is he hiding from Queenslanders?

Mr Langbroek interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection of the member for Surfers Paradise again. These are very simple questions that Gold Coasters should have answers to. All we are asking is that the Leader of the Opposition fronts the media and answers basic questions because the people of Queensland deserve all of those.