




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR COOMERA

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INTEGRITY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (4.31 pm): It gives me pleasure to rise to talk about the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 which came before the Economics and Governance Committee. The committee's recommendations are in report No. 51 of the 57th Parliament. At the time this bill was tabled, the state government said this second integrity bill would implement the outstanding recommendations from the Coaldrake report, *Let the sunshine in: review of culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector* and the 2021 Yearbury *Strategic review of the Integrity Commissioner's functions*. No, it does not entirely achieve that at all. What is missing? What about the release of cabinet documents within 30 days, the establishment of a complaints clearing house and a mandatory data breach reporting scheme, or other important integrity reforms like recommendations to strengthen the independence of the State Archivist and reform their powers to ensure compliance with the Public Records Act? The Public Records Act governs the maintenance of official government records and controls the permissible destruction of records. The then minister for transport and main roads Mark Bailey's use of private emails for official business and his deletion of those emails is a perfect example of the need to address this issue in this legislation.

In 2024 we have seen change—or have we? They say a new broom sweeps clean. Well, let us have a look at the efforts of Premier Miles so far on the integrity front. Sure, he ensured a few stubborn, lumpy bits of grime have been swept out the door. There is no doubt about that. But what else? A few weeks into the job the Miles government was quick to ensure there were jobs for mates. Mike Kaiser is in the top job as director-general of premier and cabinet. This is a man who is a self-confessed fraudster, a self-confessed individual who decides to put additional—

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. This is not in the Coaldrake report. It is not in the committee report. It is not in the bill. I ask that the member be brought back to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I will take some advice. Member, there has been some latitude in the debate, but I would be asking that members tie their contributions to the particular purposes of the bill. If you are giving examples I will listen for a moment to see if I can find that tie, but if I cannot find that tie I will ask you to move on.

Mr CRANDON: The short title of the bill is Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and I am referring to integrity matters.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock again. That is the title of the bill, you are correct, and as we have directed from this chair in the past, simply latching onto one word and using that to justify the things that you say that might not be relevant is not necessarily going to be acceptable. There are a list of matters there that the bill does pertain to. As I said, I will allow people some latitude to try to give examples that pertain to the bill. If you can tie the examples that you are giving to those matters, I will certainly allow it.

Mr CRANDON: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. The other examples that I was going to use, and I would ask you to judge them, are: Danielle Cohen, ex chief of staff of the then deputy premier—clearly a political appointment—was then given the role of associate director-general, a position that was created by the previously mentioned Mike Kaiser.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is not being relevant and also he cannot verify any of those statements he is making and I will be writing to the Speaker in relation to them.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order in relation to what you are alleging, which is misleading the House. There is a process to deal with that, as you well know. Member, I am looking at the dot points on page 1 of the explanatory notes and I am struggling to find where the examples that you are referring to fit into those dot points. I would ask you to come back to the purposes of the bill and the title.

Mr CRANDON: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. The list goes on so I will say no more. I would like to know what else is going to come out of the woodwork going forward. What about the loopholes in the lobbying laws? During committee hearings we heard that it is possible for a registered lobbyist to deregister themselves for the six-week election period with no restriction on them re-registering after the election and actively working as a lobbyist during that four-year term of government. That clearly did not pass the pub test. I see in the latest amendments that are being proposed that that could be fixed. That perhaps gives this bill a few more legs. It was a fault of the legislation and needed to be addressed as it is contrary to the spirit of public commitments to clean up the inappropriate influence of powerful lobbyists who profit from their influence and access to government decision-makers while also helping those decision-makers get elected by running their campaigns. The state government's use of key Labor lobbyists to help run their 2020 campaign from inside 1 William Street is a case in point. I believe they also managed to get free parking under 1 William Street thrown into the deal. These amendments appear to prevent this from reoccurring.

Having said that, when one considers the jobs for mates issues that I mentioned earlier, the reality is that the Miles government is no better than its predecessor. The people of Queensland deserve better. This stale old Labor government gets a fail for integrity. This bill does not go far enough to change the minds of Queenslanders. Queenslanders will have an opportunity to show Labor the door in October 2024.