



Speech By  
**Tim Nicholls**


**MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 February 2024

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Miles Labor Government; Crime and Corruption Commission, Legislative Reform**

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (2.06 pm): Today we saw the juvenile, infantile behaviour of a tired, out-of-touch Labor government when there are important matters to discuss in this House. We saw the new Leader of the House for some unknown reason extend the period of question time. The opposition was very happy to extend question time—there were many more questions—but the issue is that, although there were another 15 minutes of question time, there was no 15 more minutes of answers. We had the same cover-up, the same obfuscation, the same refusal to answer questions.

It follows on the announcement we heard this morning, targeted and leaked to the media, in relation to an investigation and inquiry into the powers of the CCC. This is in relation to the release of reports under its corruption function. This is a matter that involves a former deputy premier of Queensland, the former member for South Brisbane, Jackie Trad. A report has been prepared; its contents we do not know. We did not even know about its existence because the government and Ms Trad were so keen to cover it up. I am not saying that Ms Trad has committed a criminal offence, but there is obviously important information in that report that should be made available.

A power that everyone in this state—on both the Labor side and the LNP side—thought had existed for almost 30 years has been found not to exist. The government now says that it wants to investigate the matter so it appoints a chief justice at a cost they cannot tell us, despite a direct question in question time this morning, to investigate this matter—to kick the can another three months down the road, until May.

The terms of reference are interesting, because they say 'unless otherwise extended'. The reviewer can come back and say, 'I need more time to do it.' This is kicking the can down the road when there is already a bill before the House that I introduced that would make it legal for the CCC to release its report—as well as the report into Labor mate and Labor appointee, former public trustee Peter Carne, as well as the report into the appointment of former under treasurer Frankie Carroll and the government's process in doing so and Ms Trad's process in doing so. You would think a government that says it is committed to openness, transparency and accountability would agree to that change. That bill has been in the House since October. I can guarantee that if that bill was brought on for debate it would be passed in a nanosecond. We would pass that bill. We would say, 'Vote for it,' but this government refuses to do so. It kicks the can down the road, as it kicks the can down the road with the shield laws. An amendment I introduced in 2022 to allow the shield laws was deferred and deferred and deferred and only now comes in. This is a government that is still focused on how things look rather than how they are.

*(Time expired)*