




Speech By
Hon. Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

Record of Proceedings, 11 June 2025

MOTION

Redistribution Commission

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (6.24 pm): That is grubby gutter politics from Labor politicians who are not able to accept that the Queensland public rejected them over their performance. After nearly 10 years of failure, 10 years of neglect, Queenslanders had their say in October. That is why we are here tonight, because they do not get it. They still think that Queenslanders got it wrong. They still think that they were the best government Queensland has ever seen, that they were the most transparent and capable government. Never mind what everyone else thought; they think they were wonderful.

Yesterday the member for Waterford said, 'Electoral boundaries determine who wins and who loses'. It was not record youth crime, not the country's worst ambulance ramping, not integrity failure after integrity failure, not a new tax like the patient's, tax, not a premier who was held in contempt of the parliament. Electoral boundaries: that tells you everything about their mindset. In their minds they know that Queenslanders got it wrong. They did not fail. They did not fail when people were killed in their homes. They did not fail when people died on a ramp at a hospital. Queenslanders got it wrong, and that is why we are here today. The member for Woodridge actually said at the last sitting 'when we're back on the government benches'. He did not say, 'When we're blessed with Queenslanders' confidence after we bring them back from the abyss of a failure of trust and a deficit of confidence in Labor.' He said, 'When we are back on the government benches'. That is how the member for Woodridge sees the world.

Mr Krause: So arrogant.

Mr MICKELBERG: Arrogance and hubris writ large from the member for Woodridge. If those opposite genuinely want to win back Queenslanders' trust, they can start by admitting their failures: ambulance ramping, youth crime, record debt and deficit.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 236. I do not see how any of this is relevant to the motion or the amendment. I know a wide berth is given during these debates, but this is completely irrelevant.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, there is a motion before us. If you could concentrate a little bit on that. It is a wideranging debate, I will grant you.

Mr MICKELBERG: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Speaker. They do not like it because they know it is the truth. The opposition leader said at the start of this debate that integrity is the standard they live by in the Labor Party. What about Trad? What about Carne? What about Barbagallo? What about Miller?

A government member: What about Kaiser?

Mr MICKELBERG: What about Kaiser? Who could forget Kaiser? What about when the opposition leader could not even accept the outcome of a democratic election? On election night he could not even bring himself to acknowledge that Queenslanders had had their say and they did not want him. I still have not heard him. Has anyone heard the opposition leader accept the outcome of the election yet? Crickets. That is the opposition leader's integrity.

The opposition leader talks about standards. I am frequently reminded of a former chief of army I served under who said that the standard you walk past is the standard you accept. Where was the opposition leader when his mentor, Jackie Trad, was before the CCC on corruption allegations—or some members of the opposition frontbench right now? There are multiple members of the opposition frontbench currently being investigated by the CCC: he is silent on it.

Where was the Leader of the Opposition when he appointed Mike Kaiser as his director-general of Premier and cabinet, a man who was responsible for overseeing the opposition. He was hardly an impartial arbiter, I would suggest. A Labor Party MP, a former state secretary and an admitted electoral fraudster was appointed as the highest director-general in this state, responsible for overseeing the good governance of not just the government but the opposition, responsible for providing resources to the opposition. That is who the Leader of the Opposition appointed when he had his chance. That is what the Leader of the Opposition thinks about integrity and standards.

This is nothing more than a hollow attack designed to distract from their failures. They do not have a legislative agenda. They do not have a policy agenda. They are bereft of ideas because they will not accept the view of the Queensland public. Long may they stay on the opposition benches.