




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR JORDAN

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Liberal National Party, Integrity

 **Ms MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.47 pm): 'The jobs-for-mates era is over,' the finance minister proudly proclaimed. It is just that she forgot to tell her LNP colleagues and herself. What we have seen since the Crisafulli government's election is a literal conga line of LNP party members and donors being lined up for cushy positions in the Public Service and on government boards. Of course, we know the LNP had a lot to say when they were in opposition about integrity, an independent Public Service and merit-based selection. The Deputy Premier in February 2024 was quick to say—

Professor Coaldrake recommended the independent public service ... he also recommended ... advertising positions to make sure that there is no undue influence and to show Queensland it is an independent public service that is based on meritorious selection processes.

Let's do the proverbial resume check on some of these meritorious appointments the LNP have made in less than 10 months in power. We have Peter Matic, a former LNP Brisbane City councillor who was appointed to be the Deputy State Recovery Coordinator. I do not begrudge him. He has no qualifications, but his former ward had flooded a few times so at least he had some experience. Turns out he also was not on the State Recovery Coordinator register list prior to his appointment, but who cares about those pesky lists.

Speaking of disasters, we have got Andrew Cripps, a former minister in the Newman government who was knocked off by the member for Hinchinbrook a while back, then came back as an LNP Senate candidate and while still a candidate was appointed State Recovery Coordinator for the North Queensland floods. Even he recognised such an evident conflict when he said, 'I can't do both. It's not compatible. This needs my full attention. This is bigger than any short-term political ambition that I have.' Good to know, Crippsy, that being an LNP senator is only a short-term ambition.

Then we get another former LNP councillor and former LNP federal member, Julian Simmonds, whose only real claim to fame before this was taking out poor Jane Prentice in the seat of Ryan. He is all good. He sidles up to the Deputy Premier's chief of staff and says, 'I wouldn't mind that \$312,000 CEO job in Economic Development Queensland.' What we do know, by his own admission, is that conversations were had during functions and events they both attended. It must have been when he was still the executive director of the coal industry funded Australians for Prosperity that published all those ads and had billboards attacking the federal Labor government. This is the same Australians for Prosperity that deleted two months of social media posts after being pulled up by the Australian Electoral Commission over unauthorised content. 'Job well done, Mr Simmonds. Here's another job for you.'

The former deputy premier in the Newman government, Jeff Seeney, is now deputy chair of CS Energy. He has been pretty busy, texting the member for Mudgeeraba about explosions. 'Hey, Ros, hope things are good for you.' They are not good, Jeff. We knew it would not be long before former LNP

member for Burleigh Michael Hart would be back. Someone has to fund those Canadian holidays. He is now the chair of the Queensland Work Health and Safety Board.

Then we have new TAFE board chair, Vivian Grayson. The Minister for Housing was happy to vouch for him: 'There is rarely a meeting'—we assume a party meeting—that he is not at and I thank him for his guidance.' But why have one LNP crony on the TAFE board when you can have three, with the appointment of Christopher Lehmann, former LNP Ferny Grove candidate, and party donor Andrew Knox? The member for Oodgeroo was also happy to vouch for him when she wrote—

I think he would bring an eye to better financial performance, governance and transparency to a board level role.

...

He came to mind for TAFE Queensland, but his skills are transferrable.

The \$5,000 donation he made to the LNP probably also came to mind. Now, that is a real transferable skill!

Of course, can you not beat the best four appointments of all, which have all gone to one person—LNP aligned Mr John Sosso: director-general of the Deputy Premier's department; the Economic Development Queensland board via his director-general role; the Queensland Redistribution Commission; and the Judicial Appointments Advisory Panel. It is like there is no other public servant available to help out.

I come back to the finance minister, who also recently said, 'We are appointing people with the qualifications, experience and passion to deliver for Queensland.' She forgot to add that they must also have big wallets and LNP party memberships.