




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 26 August 2025

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; JUSTICE,
INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE, REPORT**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeester—ALP) (6.02 pm): I rise to speak to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee's report. I want to speak predominately to the integrity aspect of the committee. The Queensland Integrity Commissioner and her staff play a critical role in supporting integrity in the government. The role of the Integrity Commissioner is enshrined in law and their functions are clear: to provide impartial advice to designated persons and to maintain the lobbying register. However, the Attorney-General's charter letter, issued to her by the Premier, states that she is to 'work closely with the Integrity Commissioner to set standards and procedures for respectful conduct between members of parliament, the executive government and the Public Service'—activities that, according to the governing legislation, are not actually part of the Integrity Commissioner's role.

The commissioner confirmed in estimates that she had to begin 'preliminary work' on that 'particular responsibility' to ascertain 'what that may look like'. It reveals that the LNP government's understanding of the commissioner's role is flawed, raising questions as to why it was referenced in the Minister for Integrity's charter letter to start with. Add to that the unwillingness of ministers to release integrity advice under the guise of confidentiality, it becomes very clear that this LNP government either does not understand integrity, does not respect integrity or, worse, deliberately avoids practising integrity. When questioned on whether advice provided to a member of parliament can be released, the Integrity Commissioner was very clear in her response, stating that the secrecy provisions apply to the commissioner and her staff, not to the designated person—fundamentally making it clear that any advice provided to a member of parliament can be released to the public by that member.

Personal relationships are a matter for individuals, but of course when those personal relationships are pre-existing or emerge in the context of a ministerial cabinet they immediately require integrity advice. They require integrity advice because any perceived or actual conflicts must be managed with a formal conflict management plan so that the Queensland public can have faith and trust that the decisions being made by the government are not biased in any way. That sounds pretty simple. It is why the ministerial code of conduct and the Ministerial Handbook exists, and it is why the test of public interest or public perception is applied to such matters—something the Integrity Commissioner confirmed at estimates.

When it comes to the most recent personal relationship in the LNP government's cabinet, Queenslanders are still in the dark about when advice was sought and what conflict management plans were put in place. Why is this LNP government refusing to disclose this information to the Queensland people? There was certainly no reason provided by the Integrity Commissioner during estimates for the ministers to withhold the advice they were given. If the LNP and the Premier are serious about integrity, they would immediately release the Integrity Commissioner's advice and lay to rest any concerns regarding whether two of their ministers have adhered to their obligations. It is not a hard thing to do.

The shadow of integrity issues is not reserved to one matter when it comes to this LNP government. There is a deeply troubling pattern that has defined the Crisafulli LNP government from

day one. We had the government's controversial appointment of Mr Sosso to the independent Queensland Redistribution Commission—an appointment that raised concerns from Mr Tony Fitzgerald, who in a rare public statement said, 'Queensland might be reverting to the bad old days of biased electoral boundaries—the notorious Queensland gerrymander,' yet the LNP pushed ahead, putting at risk public faith in the independence of our institutions.

Then we had the case of Mr Julian Simmonds, parachuted into a plum government role without the transparency Queenslanders deserve in such appointments. It is a 'jobs for mates' culture that lacks even the slightest veil of integrity. What about the pattern of board appointments? Time and again we have seen LNP linked figures quietly slotted into powerful boards. These are positions that shape decisions on billions of dollars of public money, yet they are treated as rewards in the LNP's political gift shop.

Most recently, we saw the absolute debacle of the Chief Health Officer appointment—announced with great fanfare, only to be rescinded days later under a cloud of questions. Queenslanders were left wondering what went wrong. Who signed off? Was due diligence even done? Once again, we have seen integrity questioned. Where is the integrity minister on this matter?

This is not a government of integrity; this is a government of cover-ups, conflicts and chaos; a government that lurches from one integrity scandal to the next; a government that confuses the role of our independent watchdogs, like the Integrity Commissioner, that hands out appointments to friends and allies, that botches critical appointments in our health system and that cannot even be transparent about perceived conflicts in its own cabinet. Queenslanders deserve better. They deserve a government that treats integrity not as an inconvenience but as the bedrock of public trust. They deserve transparency, accountability and honesty. The opposition will continue to hold this government to account.