




Speech By
Hon. Meaghan Scanlon

MEMBER FOR GAVEN

Record of Proceedings, 11 June 2025

MOTION

Redistribution Commission

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (6.19 pm): Given her history, the LNP is really struggling when all they can find is the member for Mudgeeraba to stand up and talk about integrity in appointments. The Premier spent a lot of time before the election trying to make himself out to be different to past conservative politicians, distancing himself from Campbell Newman despite the decisions made by those around the cabinet table, many of whom are still sitting across from us today, but how quickly the facade dropped when they came to government. It has not taken him long to show that, when he said integrity matters, it actually means nothing.

If the Premier was serious about making the redistribution of our electoral boundaries a nonpartisan issue and process, then he would have genuinely consulted with Labor, with Katter's Australian Party, with the Greens and Independents. He would have made his Attorney-General actually sit down with the opposition when we asked to talk about this in good faith, not consultation just when it is convenient. If he was genuine about making sure that the perception of the people who are appointed to draw our electoral boundaries was not rigged, then he would have admitted that the Attorney-General did not properly consider the concerns that were raised by the opposition, which, seemingly, is in contrast with her obligations under the Electoral Act.

He should have said, 'Yes, I acknowledge the concerns raised by Labor,' even if he did not agree with them, and then appointed one of the many other directors-general who did not have a political affiliation. Frankly, that would have made him look like a bigger person. Instead, we are here having to try and compel the Attorney-General to table documents with respect to the Redistribution Commission process and establish a prevention of corruption in Queensland electoral boundaries committee.

I will remind the House why we are here this evening. Corruption buster Tony Fitzgerald, whom I know those opposite do not like listening to, named Mr Sosso as being susceptible to influence. When he talks, politicians should listen. This is not a matter of personal politics; it is a matter of public record. That leads to some very legitimate concerns. The Attorney-General is keeping secret whether her department investigated Mr Sosso's history, his association with the LNP and his frankly bizarre relationship with the Deputy Premier. In fact, at no point does it appear that the Attorney-General met with Mr Sosso to discuss whether he believed he could be impartial, but I am happy to stand corrected if that is not the case. We saw a lot of meetings with the Deputy Premier and not very many meetings with the Attorney-General and Mr Sosso.

We are in the middle of a housing crisis, and instead of asking director-general Sosso to prioritise the stack of affordable housing projects sitting on his desk or the Deputy Premier's desk, all of those projects that are waiting to get the tick-off, they have decided to appoint him to determine our electoral boundaries and who will be a judge or a magistrate in this state. No more obvious is the influence Premier Bleijie has—sorry, I mean Deputy Premier Bleijie—over some of the projects we have seen

axed so far than in Birtinya, in his own electorate. They literally tore up an approval I gave to a community housing provider. Now we are supposed to believe that I was advised by the department to approve this project and then suddenly, after a change of government with no influence from the Deputy Premier whatsoever, after he has been railing against this project in his electorate, the department changes its position. Why was this project and no other project considered to be reviewed in the first place?

It is a pattern. Look at the decision to join an appeal on an LNP donor's luxury ecotourism project. Initially, the department said there was no state interest that warranted the department's involvement. Then, as court documents later showed, after a letter from the local member to the Deputy Premier they backflipped, claiming they were under a genuine misapprehension about the importance of tourism to the state interest, which apparently only became clear after receiving that letter from Jarrod Bleijie, the Deputy Premier. Influence, or even a perception of it, should not be part of the foundations of our democracy. If the Premier is different, as he purports to be, then he will listen not only to this side of the House and not just to the media, but to Tony Fitzgerald. Do the right thing. Properly consult and admit that you have got it wrong.

(Time expired)