




Speech By
Hon. Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 19 February 2025

MOTION

Order for Production of Documents

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (4.56 pm): As you know, Mr Speaker, I enjoy a bit of debate in this House. I enjoy listening to members opposite and I enjoy responding to them. My great disappointment is that none of them have jumped on this motion today. Not one of them has put their hand up. I take issue with the Deputy Premier saying that no-one has been looking forward to this day more than he has. Well, Deputy Premier, I can tell you that someone has. You have only been doing it for three years; I have been waiting for it for four years. Finally the day of reckoning has arrived for this long, sorry, sad saga of cover-up, obfuscation and waste of taxpayers' money. We said that we would be open and honest and transparent and we said we would release these reports, and today is the day we deliver on our promise yet again.

Members, being in this place carries with it a certain obligation, and that obligation is to face the music. That means facing the music whether you like it or not. You have to stand up and be counted. There are tough days; I have had a few. I have always faced the music. I have always come back into this place and stood up to it, whether in government or opposition. Today we saw the true measure of the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Waterford, the member for Woodridge and all of the would-be leaders. When it comes to having the true measure of being a leader in this place you are obliged to stand up and be counted and face the music, and they are not doing that. The other thing about being a leader is being open and transparent. We will see how they vote, because that is the other test today. Do they support openness and transparency or do they continue to support cover-ups? Do they continue to support protection rackets for their mates? Queenslanders want to know whether the member for Murrumba, the member for Woodridge and the member for Waterford are up to it. That is the final test Queenslanders need to know about those opposite.

This has been a long, sad and sorry saga. It is a saga of political mates; it is a saga of political cover-up. It started with the former political mate and the former public trustee—a man paid more than \$300,000 a year—being investigated by the CCC because of his actions. Those actions were reported in the *Australian* and they included a number of things that are absolutely reprehensible: allegations in relation to drinking on the job, allegations in relation to misappropriation of funds, allegations with respect to travelling overseas at taxpayers' expense and allegations of actually not disclosing to the then attorney-general, the then member for Redcliffe, Yvette D'Ath, what he was doing. A full report was done by the CCC, that report was handed to the PCCC and that report was never allowed to be disclosed, as had been done for the last 26 years by both side of politics.

Mr Stevens: What would Tony Fitzgerald say?

Mr NICHOLLS: Exactly right; I take the interjection. What would Tony Fitzgerald say? That report has never seen the light of day. Then we had the former treasurer, the former member for South Brisbane, and her actions in relation to a similar report. A proper report was undertaken by the

independent Crime and Corruption Commission—independently of this place. Many people did not even know it was underway at the time it was being done. That report was prepared and presented but was not able to be released because of the actions of those two people.

Particularly grievous is the fact that taxpayer money was used. Over a million dollars of taxpayer funds was expended on the Carne matter, and over \$300,000 of taxpayer funds was allocated by the member for Waterford, the former member for Inala, Annastacia Palaszczuk, and the former member for Redcliffe, Yvette D'Ath, to fight the Jackie Trad case. This was allocated so that the former treasurer could actually take action. It was not as a defence; it was so she could stop a report that she thought would be embarrassing. It shows you the height of arrogance that permeated the Labor government. They thought they could use taxpayers' funds for the legal purposes of their own mates—not because they had taken a reasonable action in fulfilment of their duty as a minister of the Crown or as a public servant but to protect themselves from embarrassment. Today is the day of reckoning. Today is the day that things come home to roost. Today is the day of truth. Today is the test for the Labor Party.

(Time expired)