

Question on Notice

No. 895

Asked on 26 August 2025

HON G GRACE asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (HON J BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:

Will the Deputy Premier provide an update on what action has been taken in regard to the Facebook posts by the Deputy Chair of the WorkCover Board which was raised at the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee’s examination of the estimates for the portfolio areas of state development, infrastructure, planning and industrial relations [at pages 45-47] and described by Director-General John Sosso as possibly ‘inappropriate and sexist and offensive, possibly misogynist’?

ANSWER:

On 27 August 2025, I updated the House on the matters raised by the Member for McConnel.

I direct the Member to the page 2469 of Hansard:

WorkCover Board; Member for Cairns

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.35 pm): During budget estimates, the member for McConnel tabled copies of posts on the personal social media page of a WorkCover board member. In response, I immediately wrote to the chair of WorkCover Queensland, asking her to undertake a fulsome review of the circumstances—

Ms Grace: You squibbed it.

Mr BLEIJIE: I did—and requested that she take any appropriate action she deemed necessary. I table a copy of the letter I sent to WorkCover.

Tabled paper: Correspondence, dated 31 July 2025, from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations, Hon. Jarrod Bleijie, to the Chair of WorkCover Queensland, Ms Chloe Kopilovic, regarding two social media posts made by the Deputy Chair [1126].

Ms Grace: You tabled it yesterday.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the member. On Monday, 25 August, the chair wrote back to me outlining the findings of her review, noting that she had also obtained independent external legal advice. The chair has spoken with the board member concerning his obligations under the WCQ code of conduct and has received a commitment that he will abide by them. She has also recommended he undertake

appropriate action. Before I table the letter from the WorkCover chair, I note point 4 in the chair's letter to me where she says—

I have identified a shortcoming in the induction process for new board members. Rather than a physical copy of the Code of Conduct being provided to each board member at their induction, it was supplied to them in a bundle of materials (accessible via a hyperlink in the Directors Induction Manual).

Ms Grace: You've got to be kidding.

Mr de Brenni: What, he can't read his emails!

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. We are achieving a high threshold with this type of behaviour. Point 4 continues—

Moving forward, I have confirmed with the Corporate Secretary that a physical copy of the Code of Conduct will be provided to the board member at their induction.

Mr de Brenni: He's pretty good at Facebook but not his emails.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection about the Facebook post from the Manager of Opposition Business. I table a copy of those.

Tabled paper: Correspondence, dated 25 August 2025, from the Chair of WorkCover Queensland, Ms Chloe Kopilovic, to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations, Hon. Jarrod Bleijie, regarding two social media posts made by the Deputy Chair [1127].

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! One person has the call.

Mr BLEIJIE: Further, and separate to the chair's investigation, I can inform the House that further investigations into inappropriate social media posts have been undertaken. In the process of those investigations, a post was uncovered stating, 'Some great one liners.....' with a video attached. I reviewed the shared video and have come to the view that the so-called 'great one liners' are highly inappropriate, deeply offensive and misogynistic. The 'great one liners' in the shared video included quotes like—

The young couple next door to me have recently made a sex tape. I mean, obviously they don't know that yet.

...

I always worry when a woman sees me naked for the first time that she's just going to scream and run out of the park.

...

The other day, a woman described me as a bit of a looker. Well, voyeur was the actual word. There's no need to split hairs, is there?

...

I went to see the stalactites at Cheddar Gorge and our guide asked us not to try and crack one off. She wasn't even that attractive. Still managed. It's very dark.

...

I was actually thrown out of Weight Watchers for making sarcastic comments at the weekly weigh in. As you can imagine, I accepted the decision with huge Grace, because they threw her out as well.

Then there was this so-called joke about killing a sex worker—

I accidentally filled the escort with diesel. She died.

I cannot understand why the Labor member for Cairns thought these horrific and sexually violent statements were ‘great one liners’ or why he posted this material at a time when he was an assistant minister in the former Labor government. I table a screenshot of Michael Healy’s Facebook post sharing this video ‘Nine minutes of one liners’ and his quote, ‘Some great one liners.....’

Tabled paper: Extract, dated 1 April 2021, from the Facebook page of the Member for Cairns, Mr Michael Healy MP, in relation to ‘Nine Minutes of One Liners’ [1128].

I look forward to seeing the Leader of the Opposition outline what action he will now take today with respect to the member for Cairns, his shadow minister for jobs and training and shadow minister for tourism. Yesterday the member for McConnell stood in this place demanding the immediate sacking of the WorkCover deputy chair.

Ms Grace: Yes, you can do it. You haven’t done it.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the member. The member for McConnell stated—

Can members imagine what would have happened if the CFMEU or any other person on that board had made those Facebook posts? They would have been gone in one second. The Deputy Premier would have acted immediately. He would have sacked them.

I look forward to the member for McConnell holding her shadow cabinet colleague—he is sitting diagonally behind her—to the same standard she demanded yesterday in the House whilst I was speaking about Facebook posts and demanding—
Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! We are not having quarrelling across the chamber.

Mr BLEIJIE: Whilst I was delivering my ministerial statement I took the interjections about the Facebook posts from the member for McConnell, so I again say that I look forward to the member for McConnell holding her shadow cabinet colleague, who sits diagonally behind her, the Labor member for Cairns, to the same standard she has demanded of others in this place. The member for McConnell demanded that I act; I did, straightaway. I wrote to the—

Ms Grace: You did nothing. You did nothing.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. What is the member for McConnell going to do about the member for Cairns and his misogynistic, sexist and physically violent posts—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, address your comments through the chair. Member for McConnell, there is some provocation but you have not stopped. If I call your name again you will be warned.

Mr BLEIJIE: I would hope that the loud interjections from the member for McConnell are not excusing the behaviour of her shadow cabinet colleague, who is sitting behind her. The member for McConnell demanded I act, and I did straightaway. I wrote to the independent chair of the WorkCover board. The chair investigated, obtained independent legal advice and counselled board members. As I understand it after speaking to the chair of the WorkCover board, having spoken to board members—including, I might add, to female union members on the board—they are satisfied with the action the chair of WorkCover has undertaken. I repeat: the female union members on the WorkCover board are satisfied with the action that the chair of WorkCover has undertaken with respect to this issue.

Now that I have raised these highly inappropriate issues posted by the member for Cairns, it is up to the Leader of the Opposition to act on the Labor member for Cairns and hold him to the high standard the member for McConnell, also his shadow minister, demanded of others in this place. This is now a test of leadership for the opposition leader.