

(MR SPEAKER)

SPEAKER'S RULING – ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

MR SPEAKER Honourable members,

On 22 April 2024, the Member for Glass House wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women, Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development, Member for Barron River, Member for Kurwongbah, Member for Thuringowa, Member for Bundaberg, Member for Stretton and Member for Pumicestone all published a false and misleading account of proceedings in the House in social media posts.

The matter relates to posts on the Members' social media pages that all state the LNP voted to privatise energy assets.

The Member for Glass House argued that these posts were false and misleading because it misrepresents the position of the Opposition and what occurred in the House. The Member for Glass House stated that the Opposition voted against the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023 because they did not support the placing of a limit on the public ownership of state assets.

I sought further information from the Members about the allegations made against them, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

Standing Order 269(4) requires that in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, that I should take account of the degree of importance of the

matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter.

I note that on 14 June 2024, the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women, Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development, Member for Barron River, Member for Kurwongbah, Member for Thuringowa, Member for Bundaberg, Member for Stretton and Member for Pumicestone made explanations and apologies in the House and advised that the posts had been removed. These are recorded at pages 2326, 2344, 2352, 2357, 2361, 2382, 2396 and 2401 of the Record of Proceedings.

Accordingly, I consider the members have made an adequate explanation or apology.

Therefore, I **will not** be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.



Andrew POWELL MP

Member for Glass House

22 April 2024

Hon. Curtis Pitt MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

By email: speaker@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Speaker

I write in relation to the publishing of a false or misleading account of parliamentary proceedings across various social media platforms by a number of members of parliament.

On 18 April 2024 the House debated the *Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023*. At the conclusion of the debate the House voted on the bill with members of the Opposition voting against it.

During the debate Mrs Deb Frecklington MP gave notice that she would move various amendments on behalf of the Opposition. The Explanatory Notes stated, inter alia:

The objective of the Amendments is to:

- *Public ownership of energy assets*
 - *This will support continued public ownership of existing assets, but not put an arbitrary limit of public or private ownership of new renewable energy developments.*

This amendment would have guaranteed all existing public assets remain in public hands. There would be no sale of existing assets.

Mrs Frecklington stated:

*The LNP wants to keep Queensland's electricity assets in our public hands.
(See Hansard, 17 April 2024, page 1086)*

The amendments were tabled on 18 April 2024 at page 1190 of *Hansard*.

A copy of the proposed amendment and Explanatory Notes is attached.

Since the debate concluded and the Bill was passed the following members posted on social media that “the LNP voted to privatise our energy assets”.

This was done by the following members with the accompanying social media links:

Hon Shannon Fentiman MP, Member for Waterford, Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services, Minister for Women

<https://www.facebook.com/ShannonFentimanMP/posts/pfbid0MyBJQbnVoeaTcu79UEUxrKZbv29c6DhzCBq7W2JusQNFEq7VwRpTumZM5BwRDqwRI>

All King MP, Member for Pumicestone, Assistant Minister for Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works

<https://www.facebook.com/AliForPumicestone/posts/pfbid0249q9QVwiJVILRTVLRcd8oJzH6rScG7ru5EgfhohbRRiqv6UTE8n6qSiyppdcRapwol>

Aaron Harper MP, Member for Thuringowa

<https://www.facebook.com/aaron.harper.thuringowa/posts/pfbid02E2reR8qHJBV41W9ULMDhAZRVTarpMCh7kNvyS26XXLRqZY29ckAzc7esM9ZwV8JUI>

Shane King MP, Member for Kurwongbah, Assistant Minister for Clean Economy Jobs

<https://www.facebook.com/ShaneKingMP/posts/pfbid02DPQ27coasATqtH1vy6uXZM5hsiJbpKJzPisKDZfy3sT2qhsPonjY6xCQUiu8smc2I>

James Martin MP , Member for Stretton

<https://www.facebook.com/JamesMartin4Stretton/posts/pfbid0tCSKxEJMrFaautUTV2E2E8z34tPbQzwughzesYmwTX6akZFCYhtndLaNnb8bwyCSI>

Hon Lance McCallum, Member for Bundamba, Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development

McCullum: <https://www.facebook.com/LanceMcCallumMP/posts/pfbid02V7xUq7NNKbAZ5bdfX2srFcKtwmmSMjmDXwgaqmerXpHRNE2EVsyURrA9CZsTPerNI>

Tom Smith MP, Member for Bundaberg

<https://www.facebook.com/TomSmithMemberForBundaberg/posts/pfbid02ctEJhUW49atUmyADsQ2wivpMQXnUQ9TU6EPUcfcbrP12Q4MBVKuFAqXJdpUsDyqul>

Craig Crawford MP, Member for Barron River

<https://www.facebook.com/craigcrawfordMP/posts/pfbid023vwm74AWS9zfztPnvAXmkeEWCjstHUG6K3CzL12QoCA2L5WP9LvvHxkqRy8aPCKrl>

Copies of these posts are attached.

These posts all ignore the Opposition’s amendment which reaffirmed the “continued public ownership of existing assets”.

These eight posts provide a false or misleading account of what occurred in parliament. Claims about the sale of public assets do not reflect what the Opposition sought to enshrine in legislation.

Further, voting against the Bill as presented by the Government was not a vote against public ownership of assets. It was a vote against putting a limit on the public ownership of assets. The vote of the Opposition was in no way a vote to privatise energy assets.

I request that action be taken to ensure that the eight members involved are no longer able to misrepresent what occurred and I seek your assistance in having the posts removed and the statements corrected.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Powell', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew Powell MP
Member for Glass House
Manager of Opposition Business

2 Clause 13 (Public ownership strategy)

Page 14, lines 10 and 11, from 'generation assets' to '54%';—

omit, insert—

generation assets publicly owned immediately before the commencement—

- (A) that are 100% publicly owned—100%; and
- (B) that are less than 100% publicly owned—a stated percentage that is equal to or more than the percentage at which the generation asset is publicly owned;

Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023

Explanatory Notes for amendments to be moved during Consideration in Detail by Deb Frecklington MP, Member for Nanango.

Explanatory Notes

Short title

The short title of the Bill is the *Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023*

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

The objective of the Amendments is to:

- Public Ownership of energy assets
 - This will support continued public ownership of existing assets, but not put an arbitrary limit on public or private ownership of new renewable energy developments.
- Job Security Guarantee and Fund
 - This widens the proposed Job Security Guarantee and Fund to include eligibility to those who work in secondary industries in rural and regional areas, to consider those people as Queensland's energy source shifts.
- Review of Renewable Energy Targets
 - This seeks to provide better transparency and industry confidence around renewable energy targets and progress as it is made, in seeking to see targets reviewed every two (2) years, rather than twice a decade.
- Public Ownership Strategy
 - This will require the publication of at least three (3) scenarios demonstrating how the renewable energy targets and the optimal infrastructure pathway objectives may be met, using different mixes of generation and storage (including deep storage) technologies, in the event the Pioneer Burdekin or another similar major project does not proceed.
- Public Ownership Report
 - This mandates the requirement for the Minister to include in the public ownership report (i) the impact on consumers electricity bills, and (ii) the impact on the reliability of the electricity network.
- Responsible Ministers must direct Powerlink to submit in relation to candidate priority transmission investment
 - In the event a Minister directs Powerlink to submit in relation to candidate priority transmission investment, the Minister must include the impact on energy affordability and sustainability for consumers.
 - This will also compel the Minister to publish decisions publicly on the departmental website in the interests of government transparency.

- Declaration of renewable energy zone
 - This will see the Minister forced to outline how a REZ declaration will impact existing land uses, with mandatory public consultation required.

Alternative ways of achieving policy objectives

There are no known alternate ways of achieving the same policy objective.

Estimated cost for government implementation

There are no known cost implications for the amendment.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The amendment is consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

Consultation

Members of the Opposition have been in constant contact with their communities and industry groups across all sectors of Queensland's economy.

Consistency with legislation of other jurisdictions

This legislation is specific to Queensland.



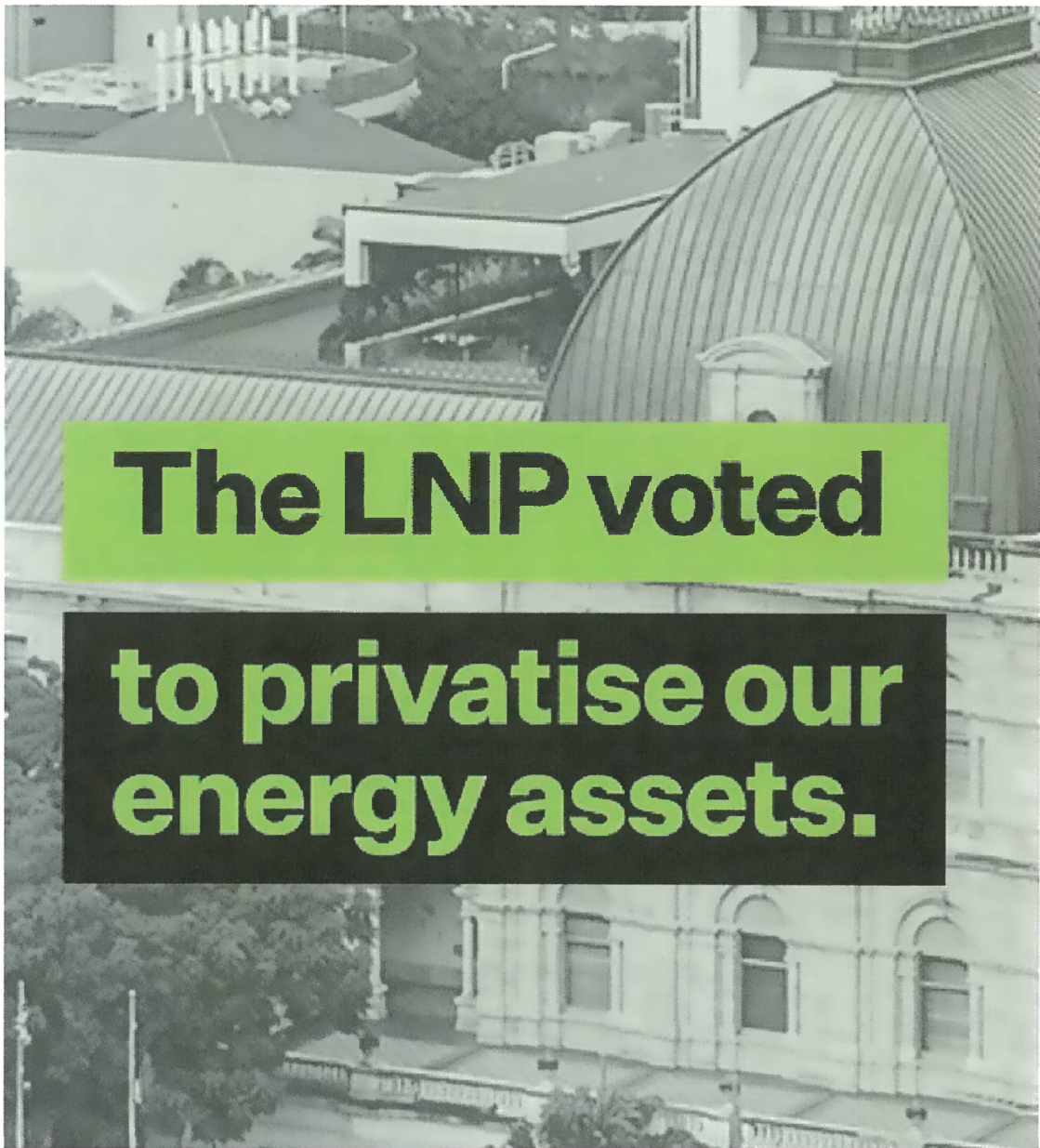
Shannon Fentiman MP is at Parliament House, Brisbane.

5 h · Brisbane City, Brisbane · 🌐

Our plan for energy and jobs will deliver investment in cheap, reliable, publicly owned renewables. 🇺🇸

The Miles Labor Government will create 100,000 good secure jobs, and keep the electricity rebate that provides vital cost of living relief.

But the LNP have voted to privatise our energy assets. They'll cut investment in renewables, cost jobs and increase power prices.



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Ali King MP 
5 h · 

BREAKING: the LNP just voted to PRIVATISE our energy assets. 😬

Under the LNP, this means

- ✗ Power bills will go up
- ✗ thousands of Queenslanders will lose their jobs
- ✗ investment in renewable energy will be slashed

#queensland #notforsale #qldpol #pumicestone



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Aaron Harper MP

3h · 🌐



The LNP have just voted against keeping energy assets in public hands! That means under the LNP.

- ✗ Thousands of Queenslanders will lose their jobs
- ✗ Billions of dollars of investment in renewable energy will be cut
- ✗ Queenslanders will pay hundreds of dollars more on their power bills voting against keeping energy assets in public hands. That means under the LNP:
- ✗ Thousands of Queenslanders will lose their jobs
- ✗ Billions of dollars of investment in renewable energy will be cut
- ✗ Queenslanders will pay hundreds of dollars more on their power bills



BREAKING

The LNP voted

**TO PRIVATISE OUR
ENERGY ASSETS**





Shane King MP 
9 h · 

This week we are debating our energy and jobs legislation and the LNP just voted against keeping energy assets in public hands. That means under the LNP:

- Thousands of Queenslanders would lose their jobs
- Billions of dollars of investment in renewable energy would be cut
- Queenslanders would pay hundreds of dollars more on their power bills

BREAKING
The LNP voted
TO PRIVATISE OUR
ENERGY ASSETS



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James Martin MP is at Parliament House, Brisbane.
5 h · Brisbane City, Brisbane · 🌐

The LNP just voted to privatise our energy assets. 🤯

  2

Like

Comment

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Lance McCallum MP

4 h · 🌐

BREAKING: The LNP have just voted against laws to lock in public ownership of our energy assets.

  6

2 shares

 Like

 Comment

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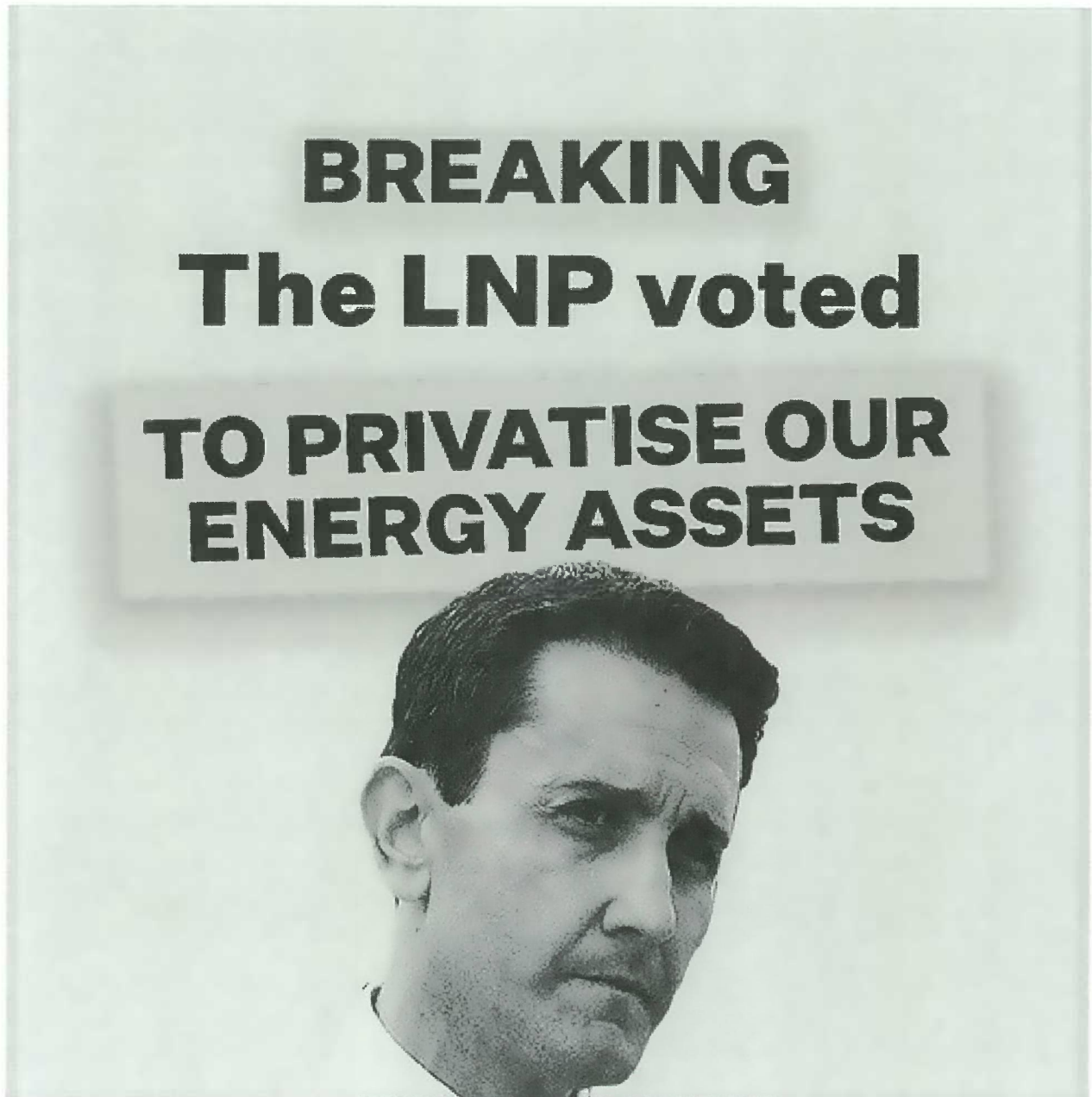
Tom Smith - Member for Bundaberg

3 h · 🌐

The LNP have just voted not to protect Queensland's energy assets but to sell them!!

That would mean less jobs for Queensland workers, foreign ownership of our energy assets, and more expensive power bills.

Luckily, we stopped them and voted to enshrine our energy assets in the hands of the people who should own them, the people of Queensland.



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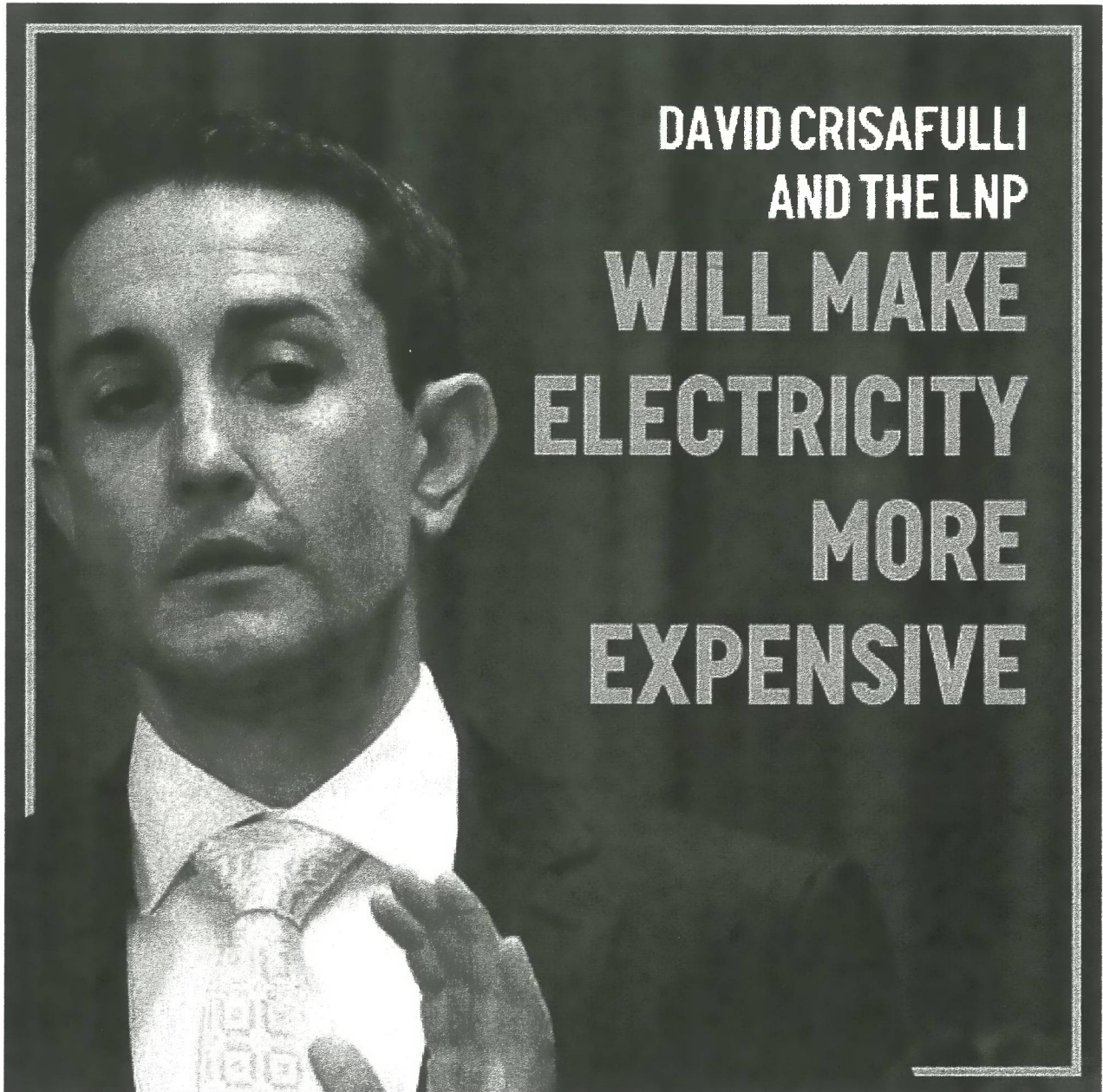
Craig Crawford MP

1 d ·

Wow today in Parliament the LNP voted against keeping energy assets in public hands.

Under the LNP, this means

- ✗ Power bills will go up
- ✗ thousands of Queenslanders will lose their jobs
- ✗ investment in renewable energy will be slashed

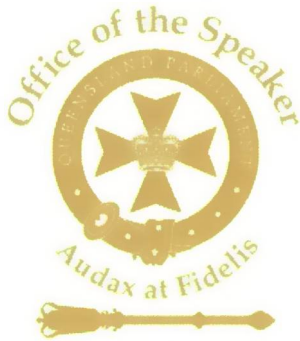


Log in or sign up for Facebook to connect with friends, fam...

Log in

or

Create New Account



Your Ref:

Our Ref: 240524-OUT-Fentiman 1

24 May 2024

Hon Shannon Fentiman MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women

By E-mail: health@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Minister

The Office of the Speaker received correspondence on 22 April 2024 from the Manager of Opposition Business raising a Matter of Privilege. The said matter concerns whether you have published a false or misleading account of parliamentary proceedings. A copy of this correspondence is attached.

Publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings is listed as an example of behaviour that the House may treat as a contempt (see *Standing Order 266 (13)*).

Standing Order 269 (5) provides that in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, the Speaker may request further information from the person the subject of the allegation. Accordingly, I am writing to you pursuant to that Standing Order.

Standing Order 269 (4) provides that in considering whether the matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, the Speaker shall take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter.

I wish to stress that I have not yet formed a view as to whether this particular allegation should be referred to the Ethics Committee. However, as a matter of course, I remind all members who are the subject of such allegations of the long established convention that should a Member become aware they have inadvertently misled the House, they should, at the earliest opportunity, correct the record and apologise for their inadvertence.

Parliament House
George St Brisbane Queensland 4000 Australia

Phone + 61 7 3553 6700

Fax + 61 7 3553 6709

Email speaker@parliament.qld.gov.au

Web www.parliament.qld.gov.au

Should you wish to provide me with further information to assist me in making a determination as to whether the matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee under *Standing Order 269* please provide your response by COB 7 June 2024.

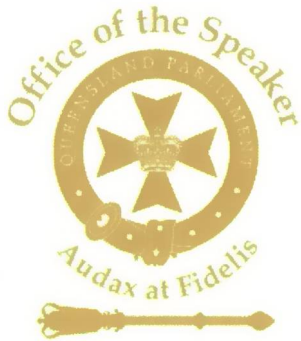
In the meantime, should your office have any queries relating to this matter, they may be directed to my Executive Officer, Coral-Leah Kemp, by email to Speaker@parliament.qld.gov.au or on 07 3553 6700.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "C. Pitt".

HON CURTIS PITT MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Enc.



Your Ref:

Our Ref: 240604-OUT-McCallum

4 June 2024

Hon Lance McCallum MP
Minister for Employment and Small Business
Minister for Training and Skills Development

By E-mail: employmentandtraining@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Minister

The Office of the Speaker received correspondence on 31 May 2024 from the Manager of Opposition Business raising a Matter of Privilege. The said matter concerns whether you have deliberately misled the House. A copy of this correspondence is attached.

Deliberately misleading the House is listed as an example of behaviour that the House may treat as a contempt (see *Standing Order 266 (2)*).

Standing Order 269 (5) provides that in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, the Speaker may request further information from the person the subject of the allegation. Accordingly, I am writing to you pursuant to that Standing Order.

Standing Order 269 (4) provides that in considering whether the matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, the Speaker shall take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter.

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Should you wish to provide me with further information to assist me in making a determination as to whether the matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee under *Standing Order 269* please provide your response by COB 18 June 2024.

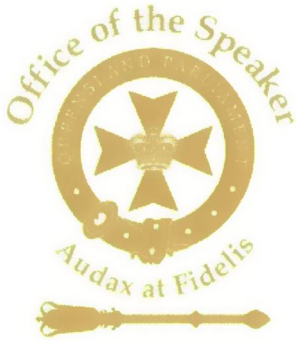
In the meantime, should your office have any queries relating to this matter, they may be directed to my Executive Officer, Coral-Leah Kemp, by email to Speaker@parliament.qld.gov.au or on 07 3553 6700.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Pitt'.

HON CURTIS PITT MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Enc.



Your Ref:

Our Ref: 240524-OUT-Barron River

24 May 2024

Hon Craig Crawford MP
Member for Barron River

By E-mail: barron.river@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Craig

The Office of the Speaker received correspondence on 22 April 2024 from the Manager of Opposition Business raising a Matter of Privilege. The said matter concerns whether you have published a false or misleading account of parliamentary proceedings. A copy of this correspondence is attached.

Publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings is listed as an example of behaviour that the House may treat as a contempt (see *Standing Order 266 (13)*).

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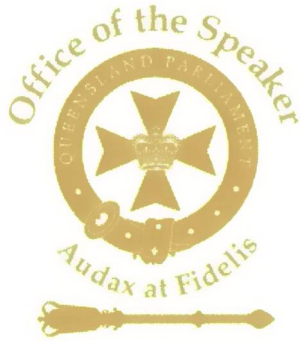
In the meantime, should your office have any queries relating to this matter, they may be directed to my Executive Officer, Coral-Leah Kemp, by email to Speaker@parliament.qld.gov.au or on 07 3553 6700.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Curtis Pitt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

HON CURTIS PITT MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Enc.



Your Ref:

Our Ref: 240524-OUT-Kurwongbah

24 May 2024

Mr Shane King MP
Assistant Minister for Clean Economy Jobs

By E-mail: kurwongbah@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Shane

The Office of the Speaker received correspondence on 22 April 2024 from the Manager of Opposition Business raising a Matter of Privilege. The said matter concerns whether you have published a false or misleading account of parliamentary proceedings. A copy of this correspondence is attached.

Publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings is listed as an example of behaviour that the House may treat as a contempt (see *Standing Order 266 (13)*).

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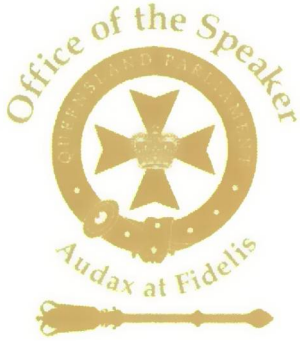
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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Pitt'.

HON CURTIS PITT MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Enc.



Your Ref:

Our Ref: 240524-OUT-Thuringowa

24 May 2024

Mr Aaron Harper MP
Member for Thuringowa

By E-mail: thuringowa@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Aaron

The Office of the Speaker received correspondence on 22 April 2024 from the Manager of Opposition Business raising a Matter of Privilege. The said matter concerns whether you have published a false or misleading account of parliamentary proceedings. A copy of this correspondence is attached.

Publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings is listed as an example of behaviour that the House may treat as a contempt (see *Standing Order 266 (13)*).

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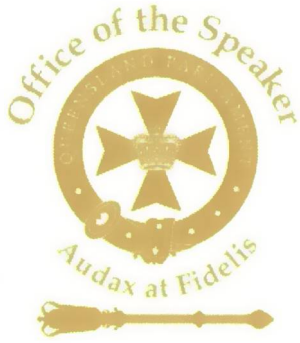
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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Pitt'.

HON CURTIS PITT MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Enc.



Your Ref:

Our Ref: 240524-OUT-Bundaberg

24 May 2024

Mr Tom Smith MP
Member for Bundaberg

By E-mail: bundaberg@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Tom

The Office of the Speaker received correspondence on 22 April 2024 from the Manager of Opposition Business raising a Matter of Privilege. The said matter concerns whether you have published a false or misleading account of parliamentary proceedings. A copy of this correspondence is attached.

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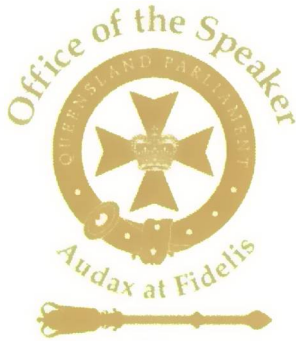
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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Pitt'.

HON CURTIS PITT MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Enc.



Your Ref:

Our Ref: 240524-OUT-Stretton

24 May 2024

Mr James Martin MP
Member for Stretton

By E-mail: stretton@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear James

The Office of the Speaker received correspondence on 22 April 2024 from the Manager of Opposition Business raising a Matter of Privilege. The said matter concerns whether you have published a false or misleading account of parliamentary proceedings. A copy of this correspondence is attached.

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Web www.parliament.qld.gov.au

Should you wish to provide me with further information to assist me in making a determination as to whether the matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee under *Standing Order 269* please provide your response by COB 7 June 2024.

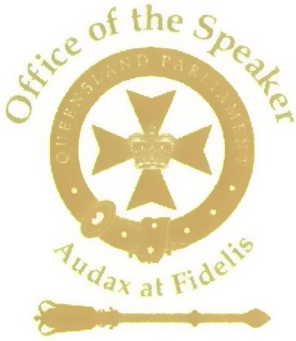
In the meantime, should your office have any queries relating to this matter, they may be directed to my Executive Officer, Coral-Leah Kemp, by email to Speaker@parliament.qld.gov.au or on 07 3553 6700.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Pitt', is positioned above the typed name.

HON CURTIS PITT MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Enc.



Your Ref:

Our Ref: 240524-OUT-Pumicestone

24 May 2024

Ms Ali King MP

Assistant Minister for Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works

By E-mail: pumicestone@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Ms King

The Office of the Speaker received correspondence on 22 April 2024 from the Manager of Opposition Business raising a Matter of Privilege. The said matter concerns whether you have published a false or misleading account of parliamentary proceedings. A copy of this correspondence is attached.

Publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings is listed as an example of behaviour that the House may treat as a contempt (see *Standing Order 266 (13)*).

Standing Order 269 (5) provides that in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, the Speaker may request further information from the person the subject of the allegation. Accordingly, I am writing to you pursuant to that Standing Order.

Standing Order 269 (4) provides that in considering whether the matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, the Speaker shall take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter.

I wish to stress that I have not yet formed a view as to whether this particular allegation should be referred to the Ethics Committee. However, as a matter of course, I remind all members who are the subject of such allegations of the long established convention that should a Member become aware they have inadvertently misled the House, they should, at the earliest opportunity, correct the record and apologise for their inadvertence.

Parliament House
George St Brisbane Queensland 4000 Australia

Phone + 61 7 3553 6700

Fax + 61 7 3553 6709

Email speaker@parliament.qld.gov.au

Web www.parliament.qld.gov.au

Should you wish to provide me with further information to assist me in making a determination as to whether the matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee under *Standing Order 269* please provide your response by COB 7 June 2024.

In the meantime, should your office have any queries relating to this matter, they may be directed to my Executive Officer, Coral-Leah Kemp, by email to Speaker@parliament.qld.gov.au or on 07 3553 6700.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Pitt'.

HON CURTIS PITT MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Enc.



Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance
Services
Minister for Women

1 William Street Brisbane Qld 4000
GPO Box 48 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3035 6100

6 June 2024

The Honourable Curtis Pitt MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Queensland Parliament
2 George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

6 JUN 2024

Email: speaker@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Speaker

I refer to your letter dated 24 May 2024 in relation to a complaint from the Member for Glass House and current Manager of Opposition Business sent to the Office of the Speaker on 22 April 2024.

Threshold question

An initial, threshold question arises from the Member for Glass House's letter. To deal with that question, it is necessary to set out some of the parts of Part 10 of the Standing Rules.

Standing Order 264(b) relevantly defines the term 'matter' as '*a matter concerning the powers, rights, and immunities of the House and includes: ... (b) an alleged contempt.*'

Standing Order 269 then sets out the procedure for dealing with matters which are not urgent or arising from Committee reports or the Speaker's initiative. That order relevantly provides:

(2) A member should write to the Speaker at the earliest opportunity stating the matter and requesting that the matter be referred to the ethics committee.

(3) A member must formulate as precisely as possible the matter, and where a contempt is alleged, enough particulars so as to give any person against whom it is made a full opportunity to respond to the allegation.

(4) In considering whether the matter should be referred to the committee, the Speaker shall take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter. No matter should be referred to the ethics committee if the matter is technical or trivial and does not warrant the further attention of the House.

As that extract of the order makes clear, it is necessary for a complaint about a 'matter' to be detailed and satisfy specific criteria in order to be properly characterised as raising a matter to be dealt with according to the procedure in the Standing Orders. One such criterion is the requirement that the letter request the matter be referred to the ethics committee.

The Member for Glass House's letter does not make such a request. Instead it requests the Speaker's assistance in getting posts from Facebook removed.

For that reason, on a proper construction of the Standing Orders, a 'matter' has not been properly notified and the procedure under SO 269 need not be followed. That is, there is no matter to be referred to the ethics committee.

Notwithstanding that position, I have nevertheless provided a substantive response to the allegations raised by the Member for Glass House's in the balance of this letter. For the foregoing reasons, however, I respectfully suggest it is unnecessary that you consider it unless you disagree with the characterisation of the letter advanced above.

The Member for Glass House's Letter

In his letter to you, the Member for Glass House alleges that following the cognate debate of the *Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill* and *Clean Economy Jobs Bill*, I, along with other Government MPs, published a false or misleading account of parliamentary proceedings on Facebook.

The Member for Glasshouse is referring to a social media post on my Facebook which states; "*the LNP voted to privatise our energy assets*".

For the reasons set out below, the social media post is a true and correct account of parliamentary proceedings and should not be treated as contempt. That is, to use the language of SO 269(6), no matter arises. Accordingly, it does not warrant further attention for the House.

Prior to dealing with the Member for Glass House's assertion that the post is a false or misleading account of parliament, it is necessary to set out the nature of the Member's allegation.

Nature of the Member's allegation

On 18 April 2024 the House debated the *Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023* and the *Clean Economy Jobs Bill*. The cognate bills dealt with a variety of issues, including public ownership of energy assets.

As is correctly noted by the Member for Glass House in his correspondence '*at the conclusion of the debate the House voted on the bill with members of the Opposition voting against it*".

In his correspondence the member for Glass House claims that the opposition moved and tabled an amendment which reaffirmed their position of '*continued public ownership of existing assets*'.

Hansard shows this assertion to be untrue.

The Member for Nanango's Amendments

Clause 12

At page 1190 of Hansard, the Member for Nanango moved an amendment to clause 12 of the Energy Bill and tabled explanatory notes for amendments to be moved and a statement of compatibility with human rights.

The effect of the amendment was to reduce the review period for the renewable energy targets from five to two years. At page 1191 of Hansard this amendment was negatived and clause 12 as read was agreed to.

Clause 13

Hansard does not show that the Member for Nanango moved an amendment to Clause 13.

The Member's characterisation is incorrect and false. As outlined above, Hansard records the Member for Nanango moved to amend clause 12, not clause 13.

An amendment to Clause 13 was circulated, but not moved by the Member for Nanango. The proposed amendment by the Member for Nanango wanted to omit the section of the government's bill which stated: "*for generation assets – a stated percentage that is equal to or more than 54%*" and insert it with the following:

"generation assets publicly owned immediately before the commencement -

(A) that are 100% publicly owned – 100%; and

(B) that are less than 100% publicly owned – a stated percentage that is equal to or more than the percentage at which the generation asset is publicly owned" [emphasis added].

The vote and social media post

1201 shows that the LNP Opposition voted against the third reading and the long title of the *Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill*. 37 noes were recorded which included the Members for Nanango, Glass House and members of the LNP Opposition.

On 18 April 2024 a post regarding this was made from my Facebook account, Shannon Fentiman MP, which stated:

'The LNP voted to privatise our energy assets'.

In his correspondence, the Member for Glass House admits that the Opposition did indeed vote against the Energy Bill. I submit that that this admission alone confirms that accuracy of the social media posts. They did not vote for the Bill and therefore voted in a way which would privatise our energy assets.

Contempt of Parliament

In Queensland conduct does not constitute contempt of parliament unless it satisfies the definition in s 37(2) of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* (the **Act**):

(1) Contempt of the Assembly means a breach or disobedience of the powers, rights or immunities, or a contempt, of the Assembly or its members or committees.

(2) Conduct, including words, is not contempt of the Assembly unless it amounts, or is intended or likely to amount, to an improper interference with—

- (a) the free exercise by the Assembly or a committee of its authority or functions; or*
- (b) the free performance by a member of the member's duties as a member.*

In my respectful submission, the post on social media is in no way an improper interference with the free exercise by the assembly of its authority or functions. Nor is the post an improper interference with the free performance by a member of the members duties as a member. You would not be satisfied to the requisite degree that the post is either a contempt for the purposes of s 37 of the Act or a false or misleading account of proceedings for the purposes of SO 266(13).

Was the publication a false or misleading account of proceedings?

It is my submission that the publication referred to by the Member for Glass House is not a false or misleading account of the proceedings, and on the contrary is a fair assertion to make following the debate and passage of the Bill.

Consideration of what constitutes 'false or misleading' conduct, conduct synonymous with such conduct, has been the subject of substantial consideration by the courts across many different aspects of the law. The concept can be distilled down to the proposition that 'false or misleading' conduct is conduct that objectively leads a person into error, having regard to all the circumstances.

As Hansard demonstrates and taking into account the concessions made by the Member for Glass House, the Opposition voted against the Bill and against public ownership of assets.

In an attempt to bolster his argument, the Member for Glass House stated in his correspondence "*claims about the sale of public assets do not reflect what the Opposition sought to enshrine in legislation*". As I have outlined, there is no record of the Member for Nanango or the LNP Opposition having moved their proposed amendment.

It is submitted that merely speaking about an amendment and circulating an amendment in the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament is vastly different to actually moving the amendment in the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament. Until such time as the amendment is moved, it is merely words on a paper.

Conclusion

The Member for Glass House in his correspondence relies on an amendment that was not moved. This in my submission illustrates the overt political nature of the member's complaint and that the complaint clearly tries to reconstruct and misconstrue Hansard and the past proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament, which is misleading in itself.

As stated in *McGee on Parliamentary Procedure*:¹

Merely stating one's opinion of the effect of a committee's decision cannot amount to a contempt. A statement must purport to be a factual description of parliamentary proceedings to constitute a false or misleading account. An opinion piece will not usually trigger this contempt, although it may be considered a contempt if it amounts to a serious reflection on the character of the members of the committee.

The post on social media was my view or opinion, that the by voting against the Bill in parliament the opposition had effectively voted to privatise our energy assets. In my submission it would not give rise to contempt.

In my submission, the post is not a false or misleading account of proceedings before the House. It cannot be properly characterised as a contempt of parliament.

I further submit that the complaint of the Member for Glass House is trivial and technical in nature. Given this, I respectfully submit that the matter should not warrant the further attention of the House.

I would be pleased to provide any further information on this matter or to assist in any other manner if it would be useful to do so. If that is the case, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Your sincerely,



Shannon Fentiman MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services
Minister for Women
Member for Waterford

¹ David McGee, *Parliamentary Practice in New Zealand*, 3rd edition, 2005, p770



Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development

1 William Street Brisbane Q 4000
PO Box 15483 City East Q 4002
Telephone +61 7 3719 7500
Email employmentandtraining@ministerial.qld.gov.au

The Honourable Curtis Pitt MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Email: speaker@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Speaker

I refer to your letter dated 24 May 2024 in relation to a complaint from the Member for Glass House and current Manager of Opposition Business sent to the Office of the Speaker on 22 April 2024 (complaint).

The complaint alleges multiple social media posts by members of the House that "*the LNP voted to privatise our energy assets*" are false and misleading publications.

In your correspondence, you provide me an opportunity to provide further information in considering whether the matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee pursuant to *Standing Order 269(5)*.

Background

On 18 April 2024, the House engaged in cognate debate of the *Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023* (Energy Bill) and *Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2023*.

At page 1190 of the Record of Proceedings of the Queensland Parliament for 18 April 2024 (Hansard) clauses 1 to 11 of the *Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill* were agreed to.

Clause 12

At page 1190 of Hansard, the Member for Nanango moved an amendment to **clause 12** of the Energy Bill and tabled explanatory notes for amendments to be moved and a statement of compatibility with human rights.

The effect of the amendment was to reduce the review period for the renewable energy targets from five to two years. At page 1191 of Hansard this amendment was negatived and **clause 12** as read was agreed to.

The vote and social media post

At page 1201 of Hansard, the Question was put that the long title of the Energy Bill be agreed to. The vote was resolved in the affirmative. However, 37 noes were recorded which included the Members for Nanango, Glass House and members of the LNP Opposition.

On 18 April 2024 a post regarding this was made from my Facebook account, Lance McCallum MP, which stated:

“BREAKING: The LNP have just voted against laws to lock in public ownership of our energy assets.”

In the complaint, the Member for Glass House admits that the Opposition did indeed vote against the Energy Bill. I submit that that this admission alone confirms that accuracy of the social media posts.

Clause 13

Notwithstanding that the LNP did vote against the Energy Bill, the Member for Glass House attached to his correspondence a circulated but not moved amendment to **clause 13**. The Member for Glass House states this was tabled by the Member for Nanango at page 1190 of Hansard.

The Member’s characterisation is incorrect and false. As outlined above, Hansard records the Member for Nanango moved to amend **clause 12**, not **clause 13**.

The contempt of publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings before the House

Section 37(1) of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* provides a contempt of the Assembly means a breach or disobedience of the powers, rights or immunities, or a contempt, of the Assembly or its members or committees.

Sub-section (2) provides that conduct is not contempt unless it amounts or is intended or likely to amount to an improper interference with the free exercise by the Assembly of its authority or functions or the free performance by a member of their duties.

Standing order 266(13) provides that publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings before the House is an example of contempt.

To commit this contempt, the following elements must be established:

1. that the member published an account of proceedings before the House;
2. that the publication was false or misleading; and
3. that the conduct amounts to an improper interference with the free exercise by the Assembly of its authority or functions or the free performance by a member of their duties.

1 Publication

The publication of the social media post was an objective reflection of proceedings that did occur in the House and were disseminated to social media in the public interest.

2 The publications were not false or misleading

I submit that the social media post is not in any way false or misleading. It states *“BREAKING: The LNP have just voted against laws to lock in public ownership of our energy assets.”*

As outlined above, **clause 13** of the Energy Bill enshrines public ownership of existing and future energy assets including 54% of generation assets. This Bill was supported by government members of Parliament.

The LNP opposition members voted against the Energy Bill, as clearly recorded in Hansard. Therefore, the LNP voted against laws to lock in public ownership of energy assets.

Even if one considers it relevant that the LNP, via the Member for Nanango, circulated an unmoved amendment to **clause 13** solely regarding existing generation assets, the fact remains they voted against laws to lock in public ownership of existing transmission and distribution assets, as well as potential future publicly owned generation assets.

In any event, this amendment would have undermined the original clause and public ownership of new generation assets and opened the door to privatisation of all future energy generation assets in Queensland.

That the Member for Glass House claims support for privatisation does not represent the views of the Opposition is not relevant to the vote that took place in the House. It is merely a matter of opinion or interpretation debated by members of Parliament. That being said, I submit any fair and reasonable person would consider the Member's claim a misrepresentation of the LNPs actions in the House.

Further, as outlined above, the Member for Glass House was incorrect in stating in his correspondence that the Member for Nanango tabled an amendment to **clause 13**.

Accordingly, the Member for Glass House's correspondence is misleading and factually incorrect regarding the position it is trying to assert. Therefore, it is false and misleading for the Member for Glass House to state in their correspondence that "*voting against the Bill as presented by the Government was not a vote against public ownership of assets.*"

It is also fair comment to claim that this is conduct in the House which is consistent with privatisation of energy assets, and it is perfectly accurate to state that the LNP **voted against laws to lock in public ownership**, because that is precisely what they did.

3 The conduct did not amount to an improper interference

I deny the social media posts amounted to an improper interference with the free exercise by the House of its authority or the free performance by a member of their duties.

Clause (f) to the preamble to the *Constitution of Queensland 2001* provides that the people of Queensland resolve to build a society based on democracy, freedom and peace.

Section 8(1) of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* provides the freedom of speech and debates or proceedings cannot be impeached or questioned in any court or place out of the Assembly. McGee observes that removing this privilege could interfere with a member's primary duty to attend parliament (*Parliamentary Practice in New Zealand*, 3rd Edition, 2023, page 687).

In a free and democratic society in the modern era, it is reasonable for members of parliament to comment on matters of public importance and public interest on social media.

Social media platforms are an important mechanism to educate and communicate political matters to the people of Queensland. Adopting a technical or restrictive approach to social media publications by members of the House could stifle debate and reduce the political engagement of the community.

These posts, which are not false or misleading, do not in any way amount to an improper interference with the authority of the House or its members, including members of the Opposition, and are made in the public interest.

All members are uninhibited in their ability engage in political or policy argument regarding matters of public interest such as the ownership of energy assets.

It is open to members of the House to argue the Opposition's vote and extensive history of privatisation shows a deep and longstanding commitment to privatisation.

Conclusion

I respectfully submit that the matter should not warrant the further attention of the House.

If you require any further information in respect of this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of the letters 'L' and 'M' in a cursive style.

Lance McCallum MP
Minister for Employment and Small Business and
Minister for Training and Skills Development



Craig Crawford MP

Member for Barron River



28 May 2024

Hon Curtis Pitt
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland
Member for Mulgrave

By E-mail: Saker@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Speaker

RE: YOUR REFERENCE 240524-OUT-Barron River

Thank you for your correspondence dated 24 May 2024.

I can confirm that the Facebook post referred to in your correspondence has since been removed.

It was not my intent to publish a false or misleading representation of Parliamentary proceedings.

I apologise to the House and any Members affected.

I have briefed my electorate office team so as to avoid any confusion going forward.

Yours sincerely

Craig Crawford MP
State Member for Barron River

Electorate Office
2.2 / 2 Chelsea Lane
PO BOX 327 REDLYNCH 4870

(07) 4229 0100
barron.river@parliament.qld.gov.au

Office of the Speaker

From: Kurwongbah Electorate Office
Sent: Monday, 27 May 2024 3:34 PM
To: Office of the Speaker
Subject: RE: Correspondence from the Speaker

Categories: QoN or MOP

Hi,
I have modified the social media post to reflect better what was said in the house. I hope that satisfies the concern of the member for Gl;asshose.

Thanks and Regards

Shane King

From: Office of the Speaker <Office.oftheSpeaker@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2024 3:58 PM
To: Kurwongbah Electorate Office <kurwongbah@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Correspondence from the Speaker

Good afternoon

Please find attached above correspondence from the Speaker.

Kind regards



Coral-Leah Kemp

Executive Officer
Office of the Speaker

Parliament House
George Street, Brisbane Qld 4000
Ph 07 3553 6701
www.parliament.qld.gov.au

Office of the Speaker

From: Aaron Harper
Sent: Friday, 31 May 2024 2:38 PM
To: Office of the Speaker
Cc: Thuringowa Electorate Office
Subject: RE: Correspondence from the Speaker

Dear Mr Speaker,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding my FB images and outlining the concerns of the Manager of opposition Business Andrew Powell MP, and his written request to yourself to consider and/or refer the Matter to Ethics Committee.

From the date I received your email, I immediately took down the image on my Facebook page.

Mr Speaker, I unreservedly apologise for any harm caused by posting of that image and can I add, it was an image that I had cut and copied from other members after the passing of the bill that is referred to in the members complaint. I am unsure (cannot recall) if subsequent opposition amendments to which the Member for Glasshouse refers this to on this particular matter were moved or adopted?

After some deeper reflection I recall your opening statements during last week's sitting on social media regarding the proper use of social media and to better regard decisions to post certain images that may prove harmful to other members.

The lesson for me, even after 3 terms as a member of Parliament is we should all ought to consider the consequences of (*I am sure are not deliberately aimed to cause personal harm*) certain images might have on fellow members when posting on social media.

Thankyou for the opportunity to respond to this matter.

Kind regards
Aaron



Aaron Harper MP – State Member for Thuringowa

Unit 8B, 48 Thuringowa Drive, Kirwan 4817
PO Box 393, Thuringowa Central 4817
E: thuringowa@parliament.qld.gov.au
P: 07 4766 3100
W: aaronharper.com.au
F: facebook.com/aaron.harper.thuringowa

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and sea on which I walk, work and live. I pay my respects to Elders, past, present and emerging.

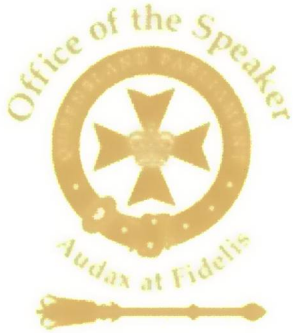
From: Thuringowa Electorate Office <Thuringowa@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2024 9:57 AM
To: Aaron Harper <Aaron.Harper@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Correspondence from the Speaker

From: Office of the Speaker <Office.oftheSpeaker@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2024 3:56 PM
To: Thuringowa Electorate Office <Thuringowa@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Correspondence from the Speaker

Good afternoon

Please find attached above correspondence from the Speaker.

Kind regards



Coral-Leah Kemp

Executive Officer
Office of the Speaker

Parliament House
George Street, Brisbane Qld 4000
Ph 07 3553 6701
www.parliament.qld.gov.au

4 June 2024

The Honourable Curtis Pitt MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Queensland Parliament
BRISBANE QLD 4000

By email: speaker@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Speaker

I refer to your letter dated 24 May 2024 in relation to a complaint from the Member for Glass House and current Manager of Opposition Business sent to the Office of the Speaker on 22 April 2024.

The issue raised by the Member for Glass House relates to the cognate debate of the *Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill* and *Clean Economy Jobs Bill*, which were debated during that sitting week and associated social media posts by government members of parliament after the debate had concluded.

The identified social media posts by the Member for Glass House all have a common theme, they state “*the LNP voted to privatise our energy assets*” [Emphasis added]. This statement is true and correct. By the Member for Glass House’s own admission in his correspondence he stated “*On 19 April 2024 the House debated the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023. At the conclusion of the debate the House voted on the bill with members of the **Opposition voting against it***”. [Emphasis added]

The cognate bills dealt with a variety of issues, including public ownership of energy assets. I therefore submit, that the fact that the LNP Opposition voted against the cognate bills is evidence that they voted against keeping energy assets in public hands.

It is noted that the Member for Glass House said, “*the amendments were tabled on 18 April 2024 at page 1190 of Hansard*”. However, page 1190 of the Record of Proceedings of the Queensland Parliament (Hansard), shows that the Member for Nanango moved an amendment to “Clause 12” and tabled the explanatory notes and the statement of compatibility of human rights to her amendments. The Member for Nanango did not table the amendments, and as such that statement in the Member for Glass House’s correspondence is misleading.

It is further noted that the Member for Glass House stated in their correspondence that “*during the debate Mrs Deb Frecklington MP gave notice that she would move various amendments on behalf of the Opposition*”. The Member for Glass House went onto providing an extract of the explanatory notes for the Member for Nanango which relate to “*public ownership of energy assets*”.

This amendment is in relation to Clause 13, which is attached to the Member for Glass House’s correspondence entitled “*Public ownership strategy*”. While Hansard on page 1191 shows that the Member for Maiwar moved an amendment to Clause 13, Hansard does not show that the Member for Nanango moved an amendment to Clause 13. This is because debate ensued on the Member for Maiwar’s amendment until the time period agreed to by the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament for consideration-in-detail had concluded, which is evidenced on page 1193 of Hansard.

As reflected in Hansard on page 1193, the Speaker announced that “*in accordance with sessional order 4, the House must now consider clauses or remaining clauses, schedules and any amendments*”

circulated by the minister in charge of the bill ...”. The Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs then moved the remaining government amendments which Hansard reflects were accepted.

The Member for Glass House stated in his correspondence “*claims about the sale of public assets do not reflect what the Opposition sought to enshrine in legislation*”. [emphasis added] There is no record of the Member for Nanango or the LNP Opposition having moved their proposed amendment.

It is submitted that merely speaking about an amendment and circulating an amendment in the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament is vastly different to actually moving the amendment in the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament. Until such time as the amendment is moved, it is merely words on a bit of paper.

Hansard on page 1200 and 1201 shows that the LNP Opposition voted against the third reading and the long title of the *Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill*. This is further proof that the LNP Opposition voted against the retention of public energy assets.

Mr Speaker, the key term in the social media posts referenced is “voted against”. To vote for or against something, a proposition or question needs to be put to the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament. There is no record of the Member for Nanango’s amendment being put to the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament.

However, there is a record of the LNP Opposition voting against the second reading, the third reading and the long title of the *Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill*. These are clear questions which were put to the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament, which saw the LNP Opposition voting against, not once, not twice, but three times. As such, it is submitted that the social media posts are an accurate reflection of the debate as the LNP Opposition voted against the bill which dealt with public ownership of energy assets in Queensland.

For the avoidance of doubt, the amendment which was circulated, but not moved by the Member for Nanango should be reviewed. The proposed amendment by the Member for Nanango wanted to omit the section of the government’s bill which stated: “*for generation assets – a stated percentage that is equal to or more than 54%*” and insert it with the following:

“generation assets publicly owned immediately before the commencement -

(A) that are 100% publicly owned – 100%; and

(B) that are less than 100% publicly owned – a stated percentage that is equal to or more than the percentage at which the generation asset is publicly owned” [emphasis added].

It is crystal clear from the proposed amendment by the Member for Nanango that the LNP Opposition were leaving the door open to privatise all future energy generation assets in Queensland. Therefore, for the Member for Glass House to state in their correspondence that “*voting against the Bill as presented by the Government was not a vote against public ownership of assets*” is farcical and bizarre in the extreme.

It is clear that there is only one side of politics which stands up for publicly owned energy assets now and into the future and that is the Queensland Labor party.

Based off these factual circumstances, government members of parliament had no intention to mislead as we believed the statement to be true when they were published on social media. These statements were made based on the factual circumstances and voting record of the LNP Opposition, as evidenced in Hansard, and relate purely to this factual circumstance. The Member for Glass House is attempting to recharacterise the LNP Opposition’s own past voting record and policy for the sole purpose to run political interference and impede the efficient operation of this House.

I further refer to a previous ruling of the Speaker on 19 April 2024, in which the Speaker reiterates that they are loathed to send matters regarding characterisation of policy to the Ethics Committee and that Standing Order 269 should only be reserved for serious and unresolved matters that are not of a trivial or technical nature. Despite this, the LNP Opposition continues to raise complaints which are technical and trivial in nature and are evidently abusing the purpose of Standing Order 269.

This complaint made by the Member for Glass House, which relied on an amendment that was not moved, illustrates the overt political nature of the member's complaint and that the complaint clearly tries to reconstruct and misconstrue Hansard and the past proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament, which is misleading in itself.

I submit that the complaint of the Member for Glass House is trivial and technical in nature.

Given this, I respectfully submit that the matter should not warrant the further attention of the House. I trust the aforementioned information is of assistance to you in your deliberations.

If you require any further information in respect of this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Smith

Member for Bundaberg.

Office of the Speaker

From: Stretton Electorate Office
Sent: Friday, 7 June 2024 10:39 AM
To: Office of the Speaker
Subject: RE: Correspondence from the Speaker

Categories: QoN or MOP

Dear Mr Speaker,

I refer to your letter dated 24 May 2024 in relation to a complaint from the Member for Glass House and current Manager of Opposition Business sent to the Office of the Speaker on 22 April 2024.

The issue raised by the Member for Glass House relates to the cognate debate of the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill and Clean Economy Jobs Bill, which were debated during that sitting week and associated social media posts by government members of parliament after the debate had concluded.

The identified social media posts by the Member for Glass House all have a common theme, they state “the LNP voted to privatise our energy assets”. This statement is true and correct. By the Member for Glass House’s own admission in his correspondence he stated “On 19 April 2024 the House debated the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023. At the conclusion of the debate the House voted on the bill with members of the Opposition voting against it”.

The cognate bills dealt with a variety of issues, including public ownership of energy assets. I therefore submit, that the fact that the LNP Opposition voted against the cognate bills is evidence that they voted against keeping energy assets in public hands.

It is noted that the Member for Glass House said, “the amendments were tabled on 18 April 2024 at page 1190 of Hansard”. However, page 1190 of the Record of Proceedings of the Queensland Parliament (Hansard), shows that the Member for Nanango moved an amendment to “Clause 12” and tabled the explanatory notes and the statement of compatibility of human rights to her amendments. The Member for Nanango did not table the amendments, and as such that statement in the Member for Glass House’s correspondence is misleading.

It is further noted that the Member for Glass House stated in their correspondence that “during the debate Mrs Deb Frecklington MP gave notice that she would move various amendments on behalf of the Opposition”. The Member for Glass House went onto providing an extract of the explanatory notes for the Member for Nanango which relate to “public ownership of energy assets”.

This amendment is in relation to Clause 13, which is attached to the Member for Glass House’s correspondence entitled “Public ownership strategy”. While Hansard on page 1191 shows that the Member for Maiwar moved an amendment to Clause 13, Hansard does not show that the Member for Nanango moved an amendment to Clause 13. This is because debate ensued on the Member for Maiwar’s amendment until the time period agreed to by the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament for consideration-in-detail had concluded, which is evidenced on page 1193 of Hansard.

As reflected in Hansard on page 1193, the Speaker announced that “in accordance with sessional order 4, the House must now consider clauses or remaining clauses, schedules and any amendments circulated by the minister in charge of the bill ...”. The Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs then moved the remaining government amendments which Hansard reflects were accepted.

The Member for Glass House stated in his correspondence “claims about the sale of public assets do not reflect what the Opposition sought to enshrine in legislation”. There is no record of the Member for Nanango or the LNP Opposition having moved their proposed amendment.

It is submitted that merely speaking about an amendment and circulating an amendment in the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament is vastly different to actually moving the amendment in the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament. Until such time as the amendment is moved, it is merely words on a bit of paper.

Hansard on page 1200 and 1201 shows that the LNP Opposition voted against the third reading and the long title of the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill. This is further proof that the LNP Opposition voted against the retention of public energy assets.

Mr Speaker, the key term in the social media posts referenced is “voted against”. To vote for or against something, a proposition or question needs to be put to the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament. There is no record of the Member for Nanango’s amendment being put to the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament.

However, there is a record of the LNP Opposition voting against the second reading, the third reading and the long title of the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill. These are clear questions which were put to the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament, which saw the LNP Opposition voting against, not once, not twice, but three times. As such, it is submitted that the social media posts are an accurate reflection of the debate as the LNP Opposition voted against the bill which dealt with public ownership of energy assets in Queensland.

For the avoidance of doubt, the amendment, which was circulated, but not moved by the Member for Nanango should be reviewed. The proposed amendment by the Member for Nanango wanted to omit the section of the government’s bill which stated: “for generation assets – a stated percentage that is equal to or more than 54%” and insert it with the following:

- “generation assets publicly owned immediately before the commencement -
- (A) that are 100% publicly owned – 100%; and
- (B) that are less than 100% publicly owned – a stated percentage that is equal to or more than the percentage at which the generation asset is publicly owned”.

It is crystal clear from the proposed amendment by the Member for Nanango that the LNP Opposition were leaving the door open to privatise all future energy generation assets in Queensland. Therefore, for the Member for Glass House to state in their correspondence that “voting against the Bill as presented by the Government was not a vote against public ownership of assets” is farcical and bizarre in the extreme.

It is clear that there is only one side of politics which stands up for publicly owned energy assets now and into the future and that is the Queensland Labor party.

Based off these factual circumstances, government members of parliament had no intention to mislead as we believed the statement to be true when they were published on social media. These statements were made based on the factual circumstances and voting record of the LNP Opposition, as evidenced in Hansard, and relate purely to this factual circumstance. The Member for Glass House is attempting to recharacterise the LNP Opposition’s own past voting record and policy for the sole purpose to run political interference and impede the efficient operation of this House.

I further refer to a previous ruling of the Speaker on 19 April 2024, in which the Speaker reiterates that they are loathed to send matters regarding characterisation of policy to the Ethics Committee and that Standing Order 269 should only be reserved for serious and unresolved matters that are not of a trivial or technical nature. Despite this, the LNP Opposition continues to raise complaints which are technical and trivial in nature and are evidently abusing the purpose of Standing Order 269.

This complaint made by the Member for Glass House, which relied on an amendment that was not moved, illustrates the overt political nature of the member’s complaint and that the complaint clearly tries to reconstruct and misconstrue Hansard and the past proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament, which is misleading in itself.

I submit that the complaint of the Member for Glass House is trivial and technical in nature.

Given this, I respectfully submit that the matter should not warrant the further attention of the House. I trust the aforementioned information is of assistance to you in your deliberations.

If you require any further information in respect of this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely,

James Martin MP

Member for Stretton

Unit 5, 62 Pinelands Road, Sunnybank Hills QLD 4109

Phone: (07) 3414 3110

Email: Stretton@parliament.qld.gov.au

A red contact card for James Martin MP. On the left, it says "James MARTIN MP" in large white letters, with "State Member for Stretton" below it. In the center is the Queensland Coat of Arms. On the right is a portrait of James Martin. To the right of the portrait, contact information is listed: "Phone: 3414 3110", "Email: Stretton@parliament.qld.gov.au", "Address: Unit 5 / 62 Pinelands Road, Sunnybank Hills", and social media handles for Facebook ("JamesMartin4Stretton") and Instagram ("jamesmartinmp").

From: Office of the Speaker <Office.oftheSpeaker@parliament.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 3:41 PM

To: Stretton Electorate Office <Stretton@parliament.qld.gov.au>

Subject: Correspondence from the Speaker

Good afternoon

Please find attached above correspondence from the Speaker.

Kind regards



Coral-Leah Kemp

Executive Officer
Office of the Speaker

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