



THE HON STEVEN MILES MP
Leader of the Opposition

Queensland Legislative Assembly	
Number: 5825T524	
 22 MAY 2025	Tabled <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MP: <i>Hon Speaker</i>	By Leave <input type="checkbox"/>
Clerk's Signature: _____	

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9 April 2025

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

BY EMAIL: speaker@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Speaker

I wish to draw your attention to a matter of privilege relating to an answer provided by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity (Attorney-General) during Question Time on Thursday, 3 April 2025.

The question and answer can be found on Page 797 and 798 of the Record of Proceedings and relates to the appointment of a Mr John Sosso, the current Director-General of the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning to the independent Queensland Redistribution Commission by the Crisafulli LNP Government.

In the Attorney-General's answer to a question from the Member for Mount Ommaney they stated:

Out of respect for the role, I wrote to the opposition leader about this. Guess what the opposition leader did? Those opposite talk about integrity. Out of respect, I wrote to the opposition leader and before he even had a thought to respond to my correspondence he went straight to the Courier-Mail and gave it to them. He did not even bother responding. When he did respond, do members know what he did? He said that he is too lazy to meet with me and he wants a supposed future leader of the opposition to meet with me. [Emphasis Added]

Speaker, I submit that a number of the statements contained in the Attorney-General's answer are false and misleading and I submit that in making the above statements, the Attorney-General has deliberately misled the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament and has therefore committed a contempt of Parliament.

There are three elements to be proven to establish that a Member of Parliament has committed the contempt of deliberately misleading the House:

1. The statement must have been misleading;
2. The Member making the statement must have known, at the time the statement was made, that it was incorrect; and
3. In making the statement, the member intended to mislead the House.

I will deal with each matter in turn.

THE STATEMENT MUST HAVE BEEN MISLEADING

The Attorney-General stated “*out of respect for the role, I wrote to the opposition leader about this*”, in reference to the appointments on the independent Queensland Redistribution Commissioner. This statement may be correct that there was an element of respect, however, it is misleading because the Attorney-General is required, by law, to consult with “*each member of the Legislative Assembly recognised as the leader of a political party represented in the Assembly about the proposed appointment*”, when the Attorney-General is considering appointing the Chairperson and nonjudicial appointee. This is set out in section 6 of the *Electoral Act 1992*.

As such, for the Attorney-General to omit the part that they are required by law to consult, is misleading the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament, as the Attorney-General gave the impression that she consulted, purely out of the goodness of their heart.

In addition, the Attorney-General stated “*He did not even bother responding*”. This is factually incorrect and misleading as there is evidence that I, as the Leader of the Opposition, responded to the Attorney-General and the Attorney-General also referred to the response, albeit incorrectly, in their next statement.

The final statement which is misleading is when the Attorney-General stated “*he said that he is too lazy to meet with me and he wants a supposed future leader of the opposition to meet with me*”. This was not in my correspondence to the Attorney-General and nor is the paraphrased version of my response by the Attorney-General correct either.

My response to the Attorney-General, which the Attorney-General clearly saw and was also tabled in the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament the day before, during the Private Members’ Motion of which the Attorney-General was present, stated:

“The Honourable Meaghan Scanlon MP – Shadow Attorney-General and Shadow Minister for Justice and I are amenable to meet with you at your convenience to discuss this matter further, to ensure that Queenslanders have confidence in the redistribution process of their electoral boundaries.” [Emphasis Added]

The operative word in my response is “*and*”. It was not an “*or*” or “*either*” it was “*and*”, which the Attorney-General as a lawyer and the first law officer of the state should understand its meaning.

However, for the avoidance of doubt my response meant that I, as the Leader of the Opposition **and** The Hon Meaghan Scanlon as the Shadow Attorney-General and Shadow Minister for Justice, being the Attorney-General’s opposite number, would be amenable to meet with the Attorney-General regarding the appointment of a Mr John Sosso to the independent Queensland Redistribution Commission.

It is clear that the Attorney-General’s statements are misleading.

THE MEMBER MAKING THE STATEMENT MUST HAVE KNOWN, AT THE TIME THE STATEMENT WAS MADE, THAT IT WAS INCORRECT

The Attorney-General wrote to me as the leader of a political party in the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament, as required by law. I responded on the requested date to the Attorney-General. The Attorney-General has referenced the correspondence and as such, it is clear as day, that the Attorney-General would have known that their statement was misleading and incorrect.

The Attorney-General also referenced my letter which I tabled in the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament on page 745 of the Record of Proceedings, the previous day, during the Private Members’ Motion. As such, it is without doubt that the Attorney-General knew about the letter and its contents.

IN MAKING THE STATEMENT, THE MEMBER INTENDED TO MISLEAD THE HOUSE

It is clear that the Attorney-General intended to mislead the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament as the Attorney-General clearly knew the contents of the letter. This is because they referenced it in the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament during Question Time, and also during the Private Members' motion, in particular on page 745 of the Record of Proceedings.

During that contribution the Attorney-General stated "*he has already tabled the letter back to me ... Legislation says the Leader of the Opposition; he wants me to consult with his shadow Attorney-General.*" This is a similar misleading argument used by the Attorney-General during Question Time, as the letter back said I **and** the Shadow Attorney-General, not in addition to or separately.

I therefore submit that the Attorney-General sought to deliberately misled the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament on multiple occasions.

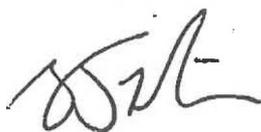
Speaker, the matter in question is a matter of integrity.

Not only is the substance of the question and the Private Members' Motion about the integrity of the Queensland Redistribution Commission, by ensuring it is truly independent without previous political party membership on the committee. The matter in question, is the Attorney-General's integrity, and their deliberate misleading of the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament in respect of my correspondence about an important matter.

As such, I respectfully submit that the Attorney-General has acted in a manner which is contemptuous and ask that this matter be referred to the Ethics Committee for its further consideration.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information in respect of this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Miles', written in a cursive style.

**STEVEN MILES MP
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION**



Your Ref:

Our Ref: 250410-OUT-Attorney-General

10 April 2025

Hon Deb Frecklington MP
Attorney-General
Minister for Justice
Minister for Integrity
GPO Box 149
Brisbane Qld 4001

By E-mail: attorney.general@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Attorney-General

The Office of the Speaker received correspondence on 9 April 2025 from the Leader of the Opposition. 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.

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.

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George St Brisbane Queensland 4000 Australia

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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 28 April 2025.

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 black ink, appearing to read 'Pat Weir', written in a cursive style.

HON PAT WEIR MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Enc.



The Honourable Deb Frecklington MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
Minister for Integrity

1 William Street Brisbane Q 4000
GPO Box 149 Brisbane Q 4001
Telephone +61 7 3719 7170
Email attorney.general@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Your ref: 250410-OUT-Attorney-General

28 APR 2025

Hon Pat Weir MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
speaker@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Speaker

Thank you for your correspondence dated 10 April 2025 regarding allegations made by the Leader of the Opposition that I deliberately misled the House.

I will deal with each of the Leader of the Opposition's allegations in turn.

Firstly, regarding the allegation I deliberately misled the House when I stated that, "*out of respect for the role, I wrote to the Opposition Leader about this*", I contend that nothing in this statement is false or misleading. The fact there are legislative requirements relating to appointments to the Queensland Redistribution Commission does not exclude the fact I wrote to the Opposition Leader out of respect for his position. In fact, another interpretation of this statement would be that it is precisely because of his role as Leader of the Opposition, and the legislative requirement for the Government to consult with him, that I wrote to him out of respect for that role.

Requirements of courtesy and legislative demands are not mutually exclusive.

Secondly, the paragraph from the Record of Proceedings quoted in the Leader of the Opposition's letter notes that I stated – in the middle of a lengthy answer during Question Time – that "*...before he even had a thought to respond to my correspondence he went straight to the Courier-Mail and gave it to them. He did not even bother responding*", followed immediately by the statement, "*When he did respond...*". These three statements, taken together, convey the intended point I was making during Question Time – that the Leader of the Opposition had provided confidential correspondence to a newspaper before, at or around the same time he had responded to that correspondence.

Indeed, it could be argued that the fact the Leader made his response public to what was confidential correspondence is a matter for regret. This is the point that emerges from my allegation.

As the Leader of the Opposition himself noted in his letter, the correspondence he

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provided to the newspaper was sent to him because of the role he held as the leader of a political party represented in the Assembly, and part of a confidential consultation process required under the *Electoral Act 1992*. Providing a copy of that correspondence to a news publication, which contained the names of three proposed appointees to the Queensland Redistribution Commission, was an egregious breach of trust and represented a complete lack of regard for the consultation process set out in legislation. All three proposed appointments, at the time they were named by the newspaper, had not been presented to or confirmed by the Governor. It defies belief that the Leader of the Opposition sees this matter as a reflection on my integrity and not of his own.

Finally, I note the Leader of the Opposition has taken issue with my response during Question Time that he "*wants a supposed future leader of the opposition to meet with me*". I disagree that this statement is deliberately misleading.

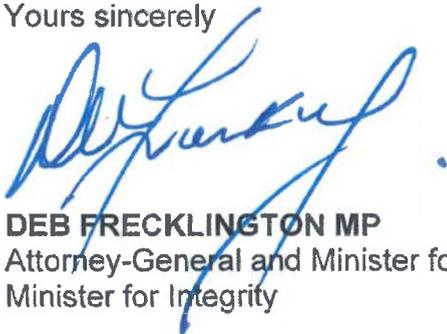
Firstly, because I had a genuinely held belief that the Leader of the Opposition's offer to meet with me was not extended in good faith and was not a sincere offer, given his decision to provide a copy of my confidential correspondence about this matter to a newspaper before any such meeting could be arranged, it reflects my reasonable interpretation of events at the time.

Secondly, as has been well-publicised in the pages of the same publication to which the Leader of the Opposition chose to provide a copy of that correspondence, the Shadow Attorney-General is widely considered a future Leader of the Opposition by political commentators and casual observers of Queensland politics alike. The Leader's hypersensitivity to my remarks reinforces the very point that I made – others covet his position and, by all accounts, one of those ambitious colleagues is the Shadow Attorney-General.

Based on the above, I submit to you that neither of the three statements the Leader of the Opposition has highlighted in his correspondence to you are examples of the deliberately misleading of the House. As a consequence, it would have been impossible for me to regard the statements as incorrect nor could I have intended to mislead the House. In view of this the matter should not be referred to the Ethics Committee.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



DEB FRECKLINGTON MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
Minister for Integrity



Your Ref:

Our Ref: 250519-OUT-Attorney-General

19 May 2025

Hon Deb Frecklington MP
Attorney-General
Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity
GPO Box 149
Brisbane QLD 4001

By E-mail: attorney.general@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Attorney-General

I write further to my correspondence of 10 April 2025 regarding allegations by the Leader of the Opposition that you deliberately misled the House.

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

I note your response of 28 April 2025. In relation to your explanation around the statement "*He said that he is too lazy to meet with me and he wants a supposed future leader of the opposition to meet with me*" I am unconvinced by the reasoning and material provided. In this respect, I note that the letter from the Leader of the Opposition tabled in the House on 2 April 2025 states that he, along with the member for Gaven, were amenable to meet with you and you were in receipt of this letter.

It is my view that the matter is important, and a retraction and apology is required. This retraction and apology should occur in preliminary business during either Matters of Privilege or Personal Explanations during preliminary business, no later than Thursday 22 May 2025.

If a retraction and apology is not proffered, then I will proceed on the basis of there being no adequate apology in accordance with *SO 269(4)*.

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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

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HON PAT WEIR MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly