



Tim Nicholls MP
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Shadow Minister for Arts and Major Events

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8 November 2016

The Hon Peter Wellington MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

	Paper No.: 5516T 2209
	Date: 1/12/16
	Member:
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tabled <input type="checkbox"/> Tabled, by leave <input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated, by leave <input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated, under incorporated, Clerk:

Dear Mr Speaker

As I committed to do so on 3 November, 2016, I am writing to you today to request the referral to the Ethics Committee of a matter which I believe to be a deliberate misleading of the Parliament by the Member for Inala, Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, both during Question Time and in a subsequent Ministerial Statement on 3 November, 2016.

THE FACTS:

1. In response to a Question Without Notice to the Premier [Hansard 03rd Nov, 2016 p.4122] in relation to overdue payments of the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, the Premier stated:
"I thank the Leader of the Opposition very much for the question. We have heard very clearly in the House today that the Minister for Agriculture, Leanne Donaldson, last night made a statement in the House stating very clearly that she had paid those outstanding rates notices. Frankly, it is unacceptable not to pay your rates notices. She apologised for that and she has fixed that up. She has come into this House and apologised to this House. She has apologised to the people of Bundaberg."

2. In a subsequent Ministerial Statement made to the House [Hansard 03rd Nov, 2016 p.4134] following Question Time the Premier advised the House as follows:
"I wish to clarify that I was advised yesterday by the Member for Bundaberg about the issue of outstanding rates. As the member indicated last night, those outstanding rates were paid yesterday."

3. I attach a copy of a Statement from the Minister for Agriculture released at 3:50 pm on 03rd Nov, 2016, and draw the Speaker's attention to the following part of the Minister's Statement:
"The Queensland branch of the ALP settled the account with the council yesterday and I will repay the ALP next week,"

CONSIDERATION OF THE FACTS:

Mr Speaker, consideration of the facts outlined above draws the following logical conclusions.

Firstly, with regard to the Premier's Statement made in [1] I would contend in making this statement the Premier clearly led the House to believe the Minister had personally paid the outstanding rate debts the Minister owed.

Secondly, in making the Ministerial Statement outlined in [2] above the Premier's clarification in no way altered the impression the Premier had previously created in so far as to whom was responsible for the payment of the outstanding rate debts the Minister owed.

Thirdly, the Minister's Statement outlined in [3] completely contradicts the statement of fact made by the Premier in [1] and perpetuated again in [2] as to whom was responsible for the repayment of the debt.

MY CONTENTION:

Mr Speaker, I contend:

- I. The evidence provided above clearly and definitively shows the Member for Inala, Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk MP's answer and statement to the House were both demonstrably false and deliberately sought to mislead the House - a clear breach of Standing Order 266 (2); and
- II. Accordingly, based on the evidence provided above this matter warrants investigation by the Ethics Committee. The Premier has placed on the record that she had discussed the matter with the Minister on the day before publically placing these version of events before the House and Parliament.

Yours sincerely



TIM NICHOLLS MP
Leader of the Opposition
Member for Clayfield

●●●● Telstra

4:04 PM

100%

< Inbox (1469)

Today at 3:50 PM

Good afternoon

Please find below a short statement from Minister Donaldson.

Cheers
Adrian

STATEMENT FROM MINISTER FOR
AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES LEANNE
DONALDSON

I once again apologise to Bundaberg Regional Council for not settling my outstanding rates accounts promptly.

I apologise too to the people of Bundaberg. On this matter I have not met the expectations I set for myself as their representative.

The debt with the Bundaberg Regional Council has been settled.

Due to personal circumstances I was unable to immediately pay the bill myself.

The Queensland branch of the ALP settled the account with the council yesterday and I will repay the ALP next week.

