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## Cameron Dick's plan to return puts Labor leadership in the spotlight

By Amy Remeikis

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Now that the political sphere has spun towards election planning, leadership speculation is once again revving up in Queensland.

But this time, it's the Labor Party under the spotlight.



Cameron Dick with Anna Bligh at a Mackay school during the 2012 Queensland election campaign. PETER WALLIS/AAP/POOL

With the Opposition publicly admitting it is preparing to take on the "LNP army", speculation is mounting over who will be its general, speculation the Labor party has been quick to kibosh.

Desley Scott's retirement announcement has given rise to the return of Cameron Dick who plans to contest the preselection for Ms Scott's safe Labor seat of Woodridge.

Ms Scott wrote to Opposition Leader Anastacia Palaszczuk on Tuesday, officially informing her of her decision.

Mr Dick, a former education minister and attorney-general in the previous government, lost his inner-Brisbane seat of Greenslopes to Ian Kaye at the 2012 poll when the LNP claimed 78 seats in the state's 89-seat parliament.

Labor state secretary Anthony Chisholm told 612 ABC Brisbane he understood Mr Dick had expressed his interest in standing for the seat of Woodridge to local branch members. While the branch members are still to vote, Mr Dick's standing in the party means he is all but guaranteed to win.

Opposition treasury spokesman Curtis Pitt said he believed Mr Dick would make an "excellent candidate".

"Cameron made a great impact as a MP in his first term ... he was a great MP in the last term of government and I have no doubt that if he is wanting to put his hand up again, he would make an excellent candidate," he told Fairfax Radio 4BC.

But Mr Pitt was just as quick in denying Labor would "parachute" Mr Dick in from outside parliament as party leader, as the LNP did with Campbell Newman before the last election.

"We have Annastacia Palaszczuk as our leader and she is doing a fantastic job and I support her 110 per cent," he said.

"The Newman experiment is a failed experiment. People didn't know what they were getting and now that they have seen Mr Newman in action, quite clearly, that is not the way to go."

Last week Ms Palaszczuk also sought to shut down rumours of a leadership challenge telling reporters she was "here to stay".



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