



# Trad blamed for losses

## Labor ministers accused of undermining deputy

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SENIOR Palaszczuk Government minister Cameron Dick is being accused by colleagues of being the architect of division within the administration amid fallout from Labor's federal election drubbing.

Mr Dick, Queensland's infrastructure and state development minister, is being blamed for whipping up a push to top-

ple Jackie Trad after his Right faction spear carriers spent the weekend backgrounding against the Deputy Premier and Left faction leader.

But a senior Right source said the claim was "categorically untrue" and that "the only conversations have been that everyone needs to support the Premier and Deputy Prem-

ier through thick and thin".

Ms Trad is acting premier until tomorrow while Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk is on a trade mission to Japan.

Mr Dick has long been touted as a future Labor leader, including during the dark days of the Bligh government. However, the Left faction currently controls the numbers within caucus.

"The narrative that Labor lost because of Jackie Trad is ridiculous, but I think they're doing a good job of getting that up," one MP said of her detractors. "I do think the Right are using it as a way to dust up Jackie," another said.

"Annastacia Palaszczuk is his main impediment," one MP said of Mr Dick's leadership ambitions. "Trad's loyalty to

Annastacia Palaszczuk is another. "He needs to hurt her before he can get to where he wants to get to."

Left faction figures said Anthony Lynham and Stirling Hinchliffe - ministers who are both members of Mr Dick's Right faction - had last week made unsolicited calls to disgruntled backbenchers.

According to insiders, the pair argued that Ms Trad was, in part, to blame for Labor's collapse in regional Queensland and that the Government needed to change direction.

Ms Trad last week fended off "ridiculous" suggestions she could be after Ms Palaszczuk's job, her supporters describing the pair as fiercely loyal to one another.

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