

Lawrence Springborg MP
Leader of the Opposition

LAID UPON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE
No. 551571871
8 DEC 2015
MP: SPEAKER
Clark's Signature: _____



Mineral House
Level 7,
41 George Street
PO Box 15057
City East QLD 4002



1 December 2015

The Honourable Mr Peter Wellington MP
Speaker of the House
Parliament House
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Mr Speaker

I write to you in relation to a very serious breach of Standing Order 266 (12) pertaining to the Parliamentary Ethics Committee and divulging the proceedings or the report of a committee or a subcommittee contrary to Standing Orders.

Yesterday, 30th November, the Queensland Times newspaper published a story relating to the current investigation into the Member for Bundamba and her *prima-facie* signing of false statements to a parliamentary committee. The newspaper report, which I have attached, was titled "D-DAY FOR MILLER" and revealed –if true- an extraordinary knowledge of the Ethics Committee investigations as follows:

"The Queensland Times understand the powerful parliamentary ethics committee has completed its investigation into the allegations."

"The QT understands the decision on whether the final report is tabled in parliament this week rests with the committee's acting-chair Di Farmer."

"It is further understood the lengthy report, and its contents, will be discussed when the Labor Party meet today ahead of the final parliamentary sittings of the year."

"A source close to the investigation told the QT the final report was a fair reflection of the evidence provided to the committee."

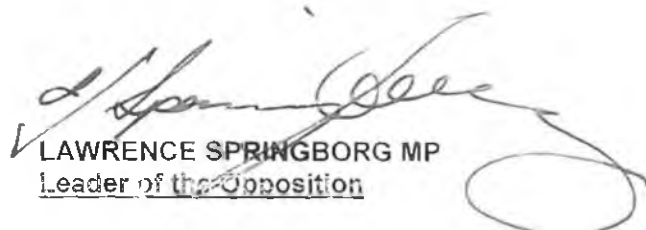
"The source told the QT the final report had the full support of all committee members - regardless of their political persuasion."

It is abundantly clear that the source of information cited by the journalist – if correct - has access to information not readily available to the general public.

In reporting this serious breach to you Mr Speaker, I should advise that I also seek your guidance or ruling on who is the appropriate authority to investigate such a breach. Normally, this issue would likely be referred to the Ethics Committee itself, but given the breach relates to the Ethics Committee, there is a clear potential conflict of interest that may present itself to an Ethics Committee Member.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest opportunity given the seriousness of this matter.

Yours sincerely



LAWRENCE SPRINGBORG MP
Leader of the Opposition