

Assistant Minister to the Premier on
Matters of State and New Citizens
Leader of the House

DELIVERING
FOR QUEENSLAND




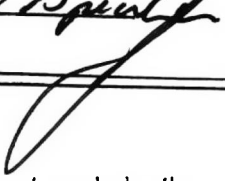
Queensland
Government

1 August 2025

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Hon Patrick Weir MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Queensland Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

Via email: speaker@parliament.qld.gov.au

Queensland Legislative Assembly	
Number: 5825T 1516	
 15 OCT 2025	Tabled <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MP: Hon Speaker	By Leave <input type="checkbox"/>
Clerk's Signature: 	

Dear Mr Speaker, *Pat,*

I write to draw your attention to a matter of privilege relating to a statement made by the Member for Woodridge on 24 June 2025 during the Member's Address-in-Reply contribution.

The Member's comments can be found on Page 1875 of the Record of Proceedings and relate to the purchase of office equipment in Ministerial offices, as well as cost-of-living relief provided to Queenslanders in the 2025-26 Budget.

The Member for Woodridge stated:

*"There was a promise to treat taxpayers' money—of all days, I am proud to say this today—with respect, but as soon as they took power the LNP acted with speed and glee to spend public money on themselves. Finance minister Ros Bates, charged by Premier Crisafulli to drive 'responsible expenditure', spent almost \$70,000 on herself renovating her office including a new frosted front door. **Not to be outdone, the Premier quickly snaffled a new \$5,000 TV for his office.** I have been in that office. I know where the televisions are. **What sort of selfishness is it to buy another \$5,000 TV for your own office when you are denying cost-of-living relief to hardworking Queenslanders?** Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie, a man who describes himself in this House as a 'working-class hero'—what a farce!—secured a new \$5,000 TV for his office and a black Lexus."¹*

In this statement, the Member for Woodridge stated that the Premier purchased a \$5000 TV for his office. This is an incorrect statement. I submit that in making that statement, the Member has deliberately misled the Legislative Assembly and committed a contempt of Parliament.

¹ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_06_24_DAILY.pdf, page 1875

I acknowledge your recent advice that trivial and technical matters should not be referred, and that you consider serious matters to be those that "*seriously misrepresent the record of the House or ... unfairly affected the reputation of a member?*"². As I will outline below, the Member for Woodridge misrepresented the record of the House by incorrectly characterising the 2025-26 Budget.

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 Member for Woodridge's comment in the House clearly states that the Premier bought a new television for his office, at a cost of \$5000. As stated above, this statement is incorrect.

The Premier's office received a quote for the installation of additional television at 1 William Street. However, the television was never purchased or installed. Therefore, in stating that the Premier purchased a \$5000 TV for the office, the Member for Woodridge misled the Parliament.

I understand that members of the Opposition were provided access to documents through the Right to Information (RTI) Act about the cost of equipment purchases in ministerial offices. These documents included the television costs referenced by the Member for Woodridge. The Member could have sought to clarify if the money was ever spent, after obtaining the initial RTI documents.

The Member for Woodridge also stated, "*What sort of selfishness is it to buy another \$5,000 TV for your own office when you are **denying cost-of-living relief to hardworking Queenslanders?***". This statement is also false, as the 2025-26 Budget – handed down immediately prior to the Member for Woodridge's contribution in the House – funds several cost-of-living initiatives for Queenslanders.

The Crisafulli Government is proud that the 2025-26 Budget contains a range of responsible and targeted cost-of-living measures. The Budget fully funds the LNP's permanent 50 cent fares across the forward years and restores indexation to the Electricity Rebate Scheme for vulnerable households.

Our government's new *Back to School Boost* will provide \$100 per child to help cover the cost of school essentials for primary school students. We've also funded \$200 *Play On!* sport vouchers to support families with the cost of sport and recreation activities.

² https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_06_10_WEEKLY.pdf, page 1516

The 2025-26 Budget funds free health care checks for kids at kindy and includes the largest ever investment in public healthcare for Queenslanders. There is also considerable support for first home buyers, to help close the deposit gap and reduce the costs associated with entering the property market.

Clearly the Member for Woodridge's assertion that our government is "*denying cost-of-living relief to hardworking Queenslanders*" is incorrect. By making these statements in the House, the Member has further misled the Parliament.

The Member making the statement must have known that it was incorrect

As noted above, members of the Opposition were provided access to RTI documents that included the television costs referenced by the Member for Woodridge. These documents were then widely shared with various media outlets, presumably by the Opposition.

Among other reporting, the matter was covered on Channel 10 news on 7 May 2025. A transcript of the report is included in Appendix 1. The reporter notes, "*the government sourced their own TV elsewhere for just a few hundred dollars*".

Given the RTI documents were provided to the Opposition and then to the media, it is reasonable to assume the Member for Woodridge was aware of this media report before he rose to address the House on 24 June 2025. Therefore, the Member for Woodridge would have also known statements in the House were incorrect at the time.

Additionally, the Member for Woodridge made incorrect statements about cost-of-living relief within the Budget. All the cost-of-living measures outlined above were cited by the Treasurer in his Budget speech. I note that the Member for Woodridge was present in the House during the Treasurer's Budget speech.

As with all members, the Member for Woodridge was provided with a full set of Budget papers in the House. As is evident from the Legislative Assembly Broadcast from 24 June, the Member for Woodridge opened his Budget Papers as soon as they were tabled by the Treasurer at 2:02pm³.

The Member's Address-in-Reply speech was delivered almost two hours later. Even if the Member for Woodridge had not been present for the Treasurer's Budget Speech, there was still sufficient time for the member to read the papers and understand the cost-of-living measures included in the Budget.

The Member for Woodridge made no less than 10 references to the Budget throughout his Address-in-Reply speech. The member spent considerable time providing commentary on the Budget during this speech. It can only be assumed he did so after having read the Budget papers.

³ <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Live-and-Archived-Broadcasts/video-on-demand/player/5c47c5f3aa13407aa1a81363f564ed02?t=00%3A21%3A35> at 21:51

As such, the Member for Woodridge would have seen what cost-of-living measures were included in the Budget and known that his statements were incorrect.

The Member intended to mislead the House

It is important to consider the context in which the statement was made. The Member for Woodridge's statement not made in response to a Question without Notice. The Legislative Assembly Broadcast from 24 June 2025 clearly shows the Member was reciting a pre-prepared speech⁴. This can be seen in Appendix 2. The statements were not improvised or made without preparation.

At the time, the Member for Woodridge was attempting to make a point about wasteful spending: *"There was a promise to treat taxpayers' money—of all days, I am proud to say this today—with respect, but as soon as they took power **the LNP acted with speed and glee to spend public money on themselves**".*

Providing the true facts – that \$5000 of taxpayers' money was **not** used to purchase a television and that considerable cost-of-living relief **was** included in the Budget – would have undermined the Member's entire argument.

As I have outlined above, the Member had clear knowledge that his statements were incorrect and instead chose to misrepresent the truth in the House.

As such, I respectfully submit that the Member for Woodridge has deliberately misled the House and committed a contempt of Parliament. I ask that this matter be referred to the Ethics Committee for further consideration.

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

Yours sincerely



**DR CHRISTIAN ROWAN MP
ASSISTANT MINISTER TO THE PREMIER
LEADER OF THE HOUSE**

⁴ <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Live-and-Archived-Broadcasts/video-on-demand/player/cf68115377894383baff729de952216a?t=00%3A24%3A25>, at 35:16

APPENDIX 1: Channel 10 News First Transcript

10 News First at 05:05 p.m, 7 May 2025

We have a 10 News First exclusive tonight revealing some eye watering costs to taxpayers after the Liberal state government took power. Live to State political reporter Matthew Karstunan. And Matt, you've obtained some documents exclusively. What can you tell us?

*Good evening, Sharon. I have here a cache of documents made public under the Right to Information Act, lifting the lid on what has exactly happened when a new government moves into office. In these documents are a series of email correspondence dating back to late last year as the Crisafulli government settled into 1 William Street were essentially cleaned out when Labor lost. In the Tower of Power, office essentials don't come cheap. Documents given exclusively to 10 News First reveal just how much taxpayers were slugged as the Liberal government moved into 1 William Street. For one television to be installed, \$10,000. 10 News First understands **the government sourced their own TV elsewhere for just a few hundred dollars**. But what about cutlery? The Queensland Government Accommodation Office quoted for 54 table knives just over \$1,300. 54 dessert spoons, nearly \$650, or close to \$12 a spoon. They could have got a 16-piece cutlery set at Kmart for just \$22. What about chairs? The government was quoted \$4,600 for 12 stools. That's about \$380 per seat, including delivery and installation. You can find a similar-looking stool at IKEA for just \$29 a pop.*

APPENDIX 2: Screenshot of the Legislative Assembly from 24 June 2025 during the Member for Woodridge's speech





Your Ref:

Our Ref: 250805-OUT-Deputy Leader

5 August 2025

Hon Cameron Dick MP
Deputy Leader of the Opposition
Shadow Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Planning and Regional Development
Member for Woodridge
L9, 63 George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

By E-mail: DeputyLeader@opposition.qld.gov.au

Dear Deputy Leader

The Office of the Speaker received correspondence on 1 August 2025 from the Assistant Minister to the Premier and Leader of the House. 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 20 August 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', with a stylized flourish at the end.

HON PAT WEIR MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Enc.



THE HON CAMERON DICK MP
DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

22 August 2025

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

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

Dear Speaker,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of 5 August 2025 regarding an allegation raised by the Assistant Minister to the Premier and Leader of the House, Dr Christian Rowan MP (the Member for Moggill).

The Member for Moggill has alleged that I deliberately misled the House in relation to a contribution I made during my Address-in-Reply speech on Tuesday 24 June 2025, wherein I stated:

*"There was a promise to treat taxpayers' money—of all days, I am proud to say this today—with respect, but as soon as they took power the LNP acted with speed and glee to spend public money on themselves. Finance minister Ros Bates, charged by Premier Crisafulli to drive 'responsible expenditure', spent almost \$70,000 on herself renovating her office including a new frosted front door. **Not to be outdone, the Premier quickly snaffled a new \$5,000 TV for his office.** I have been in that office. I know where the televisions are. **What sort of selfishness is it to buy another \$5,000 TV for your own office when you are denying cost-of-living relief to hardworking Queenslanders?** Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie, a man who describes himself in this House as a 'working-class hero'—what a farce!—secured a new \$5,000 TV for his office and a black Lexus."*

The Member for Moggill has taken particular issue, in his letter to you, with the bolded excerpts of the speech. I note he has not taken issue with my statements regarding the expenditure committed by the government to upgrade the ministerial office of Minister Bates, despite Minister Bates, as Finance Minister, being tasked with driving responsible government expenditure, nor has he taken issue with my statements regarding expenditure on the office of the Deputy Premier.

I will therefore only respond to the allegations raised in the Member for Moggill's letter that relate to my statements regarding expenditure on the Premier's Office and to my statements in respect of cost-of-living relief in the 2025-26 State Budget and the Queensland Labor Opposition's understanding of the lack of cost-of-living relief in that budget.

THE STATEMENT "MUST HAVE BEEN MISLEADING"

TELEVISIONS

The Member for Moggill in his correspondence makes several presumptions relating to the purchase of the television.

He refers to a report by Channel 10 News, stating:

"Among other reporting, the matter was covered on Channel 10 news on 7 May 2025. A transcript of the report is included in Appendix 1. The reporter notes, "the government sourced their own TV elsewhere for just a few hundred dollars".

The Member for Moggill has misled you by failing to include the full quote:

“10 News First understands the government sourced their own TV elsewhere for just a few hundred dollars.”

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary describes “understands” as the following:

“Understand verb (BELIEVE) – to accept as a fact or truth or regard as plausible without utter certainty.”¹

The use of the word “understands” indicates that it was not a confirmed fact that the TV had been purchased at a reduced price. This is supported by the fact that no other media outlet reported an alternative cost for the purchase of the TV. The Courier Mail in their report stated:

“Mr Crisafulli and Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie also requested two televisions each, totalling \$10,000.”²

No clarification in the public realm was, or has ever been made about whether the TVs were purchased at a reduced price, by the government. This is despite the government doing this for a TV requested by Minister Gerber’s office:

“Youth Justice Minister Laura Gerber’s office requested a quote for a television to be installed because it was required to watch Parliament.

A quote was issued totalling \$5631 for the television – at \$144.75 per month over 39 months – while the installation of associated cabling cost \$2700.

It was rejected due to the cost.”³

I also submit that in respect of the Right to Information documents released to the Opposition Office, I am informed that these documents do not contain any information which confirms the claim by the Member for Moggill that a TV was purchased at an alternate reduced price.

It should also be noted that based on the contractual arrangements entered into by the Newman LNP Government for 1 William Street, is it highly unlikely that the owners of 1 William Street would allow an individual or an office to purchase and install their own private television at a reduced cost.

I therefore submit that my statements about the television were based on public reporting and information in the public realm at the time, which to this day have not been categorically proven in any way to be false or incorrect, based on the information I have submitted above.

COST-OF-LIVING

In his correspondence, the Member for Moggill’s argument almost wholly relies on attempting to debunk my statement that the government is denying cost-of-living relief to hardworking Queenslanders.

The Queensland Labor Opposition has consistently, on behalf of Queenslanders, called out the Crisafulli LNP Government for failing to properly address cost-of-living pressures on families and businesses.

In the 2024-25 Budget that I delivered in June 2024, the former Labor Government delivered a record \$11.218 billion in concessions⁴, supporting every Queenslanders, in particular through measures such as:

- \$1,300 off the electricity bills of every household (\$1000 paid for by the former Miles Labor Government and \$300 by the Albanese Labor Government);

¹ Understand - Verb Definition | Merriam-Webster

² Finance Minister Ros Bates billed taxpayers \$67k for office reno. frosted glass door | The Courier Mail, 9 May 2025

³ Ibid

⁴ Cost of Living Action Paper | 2024-25 Queensland Budget

- \$650 off the electricity bills of over 200,000 small businesses (paid for by the former Miles Labor Government and the Albanese Labor Government);
- 20 per cent off the cost of vehicle registration, benefitting around 5.7 million vehicles;
- Half price Brisbane Airtrain tickets.

Each of these measures has not been continued by the Crisafulli LNP Government. The change in the total Budget spend for concessions alone from \$11.218 billion in 2024-25⁵ to \$8.5 billion in 2025-26⁶ shows the government has denied Queenslanders' cost-of-living relief, to the tune of almost \$3 billion.

As I have said previously in the House and in other correspondence on similar matters, government is all about making decisions, and how those decisions affect the lives of everyday Queenslanders. The Crisafulli LNP Government made the decision to deny Queenslanders' cost-of-living relief, by denying them energy bill rebates.

Given that every single household received an energy bill rebate under Labor, and now only certain households receive one under the LNP, it is undeniable the LNP has denied cost-of-living relief to many Queenslanders. This is also despite the Premier's promise to lower power prices:

*"My commitment to Queensland is energy will be cheaper under the LNP because we have a plan to drive down the ongoing costs."*⁷

In May, the Australian Energy Regulator announced they expected increases of up to 3.7 per cent for households and up to 8.5 per cent increases for small businesses.⁸

Following this and following the delivery of the 2025-26 Budget, the Australian reported "*'Cruel irony': End of double rebates spell trouble for power bills in Brisbane,*"⁹, showing that Brisbane households are paying 14 per cent more than the national average for electricity, with an increase of 21 per cent in the past year.

Despite being warned of this increase in prices, the Crisafulli LNP Government did not deliver energy rebates to combat this impending rise in power bills, and therefore denied Queenslanders' cost-of-living relief. This is also despite the Crisafulli LNP Government being warned by experts that their signature "electricity maintenance guarantee" policy will not drive down costs of energy.¹⁰

My statement in the House, that the government was denying cost-of-living relief to hardworking Queenslanders was accurate because of the reasons I have outlined above – there is almost \$3 billion less in concessions in 2025-26 than there was in 2024-25, and there is no continuation of energy rebates for households or businesses.

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

As I have outlined above, my statement that the government was "*denying cost-of-living relief to hardworking Queenslanders*" was not incorrect, because the government has done so by failing to deliver universal energy bill rebates that support every household, particularly as prices continue to rise under the Crisafulli LNP Government.

In respect of the televisions, my statements were made based on the publicly reported materials at the time, which referred to the televisions being thousands of dollars, I also never cited the Right to Information documents at the time, which I am advised do not indicate that televisions were purchased at a reduced rate.

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Budget Paper 1 - Budget Speech | 2025-26 Queensland Budget

⁷ Power Prices Qld: Bills to rise despite LNP election promise | The Courier Mail, 13 June 2025

⁸ Final Determination on 2025-26 Safety Net Prices | Australian Energy Regulator

⁹ 'Cruel irony': End of double rebates spell trouble for power bills in Brisbane | The Australian, 6 August 2025

¹⁰ Power Prices Qld: Bills to rise despite LNP election promise | The Courier Mail, 13 June 2025

In addition, I did not see the 10 News media report about the matter at the time, however, even if I did, the words used by the journalist being “understands” is not a definitive statement and does not prove what the Member for Moggill alleges.

THE MEMBER “INTENDED” TO MISLEAD THE HOUSE

There can be no “intent” established in this case because I did not mislead the House. I would never and have never intended to mislead the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament in all my time as an elected Member of Parliament.

My statements were made based on my genuine understanding of information in the public realm and my understanding of the budget papers, which shows a conscious decision by the Crisafulli LNP Government to not continue a number of cost-of-living measures.

CONCLUSION

I refer to standing Order 269(4) which requires that in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, that the Speaker should 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 refer to your Speaker’s Statement made on 10 June 2025, wherein you said:

“In this regard referrals should not be about matters of policy interpretation, semantics or puffery. In looking at whether a matter is serious, I consider matters such as: does the matter seriously impinge upon the rights and powers of the House, committee or members—for example, does the matter seriously misrepresent the record of the House or has the matter unfairly affected the reputation of a member? I ask all members not to send matters that are unworthy of referral.”¹¹

This ruling came after I had written to you on 23 May 2025 about what I regarded as serious and egregious claims by the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training (Member for Mudgerraba). In that letter I referred to a series of claims made by the Member for Mudgerraba including:

“There was no strategy, no leadership, and no outcomes. While the world was opening and opportunities were emerging, Labor sat idle. They did not grow trade; they watched it drift,”

and

“Frankly, Queensland’s exporters deserve better than a government whose idea of trade promotion was a press release, a pat on the back and subsidising investments with Queensland’s taxpayers’ dollars without their knowledge.

and

“Unlike Labor, who flailed about on the international trade landscape and failed to produce real, tangible outcomes for Queensland ...”

These claims were, in my view, as the immediate past Minister for Trade, false as outlined in my letter, but were ultimately determined to be puffery.

I submit to you, Mr Speaker, that this matter falls clearly within the policy interpretation, semantics and puffery, you referred to in your statement.

It does not seriously misrepresent the record of the House, nor does it unfairly affect the reputation of a member, because the provision (or lack thereof) of cost-of-living relief is a contested policy position and a matter of interpretation.

¹¹ Record of Proceedings, Tuesday 10 June 2025 | Queensland Parliament

I believe the matter relating to cost-of-living relief also falls within the ruling made by Speaker Simpson on 16 October 2014 and reinforced by Speaker Pitt:

"The nature of political debate is that members engage in argument by discussing opposing viewpoints or different opinions, often at times using different statistics or methods of calculation."

On the matter relating to the purchase of the television, I submit that it does not seriously misrepresent the record of the House because it was publicly reported the Premier requested the TV, and this was not, and never has been, definitively corrected by the Premier or the government (notwithstanding the claims made by the Member for Moggill in his letter to you, which he asserts are true, nor subsequently reported on widely in the media).

I submit it also does not unfairly affect the reputation of the member. If the member's reputation was unfairly affected by the purchase of the television it would not be because of my statements, it would be because of the media reports on the television quote, and the lack of clarity provided by the Premier and the government around the purchase.

If the Premier believed that this matter as reported by the media (without clarity on the purchase) would unfairly affect his reputation, I assert that it is reasonable to expect the Premier could have, and should have, made a public explanation or provided details to the Parliament to correct the public record. He has chosen not to.

I also refer to your statement in the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament regarding Matters of Privilege, wherein you stated:

"Complaints must provide evidence to each element of the alleged contempt and the matter must be serious and should not be technical, trivial or vexatious. In this regard referrals should not be about matters of policy interpretation, semantics or puffery."

It is clear that the matters raised by the Member for Moggill go to policy interpretation, semantics and political puffery. I respectfully ask therefore that this matter be dismissed.

If you have any queries regarding this correspondence or would like further information or steps taken, please do not hesitate to contact the Opposition Office on (07) 3004 2300 or via email to DeputyLeader@opposition.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



**CAMERON DICK MP
DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
SHADOW MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT,
INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
STATE MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**