

Independent Voice

I have been an Independent politician for over 20 years, four and a half in Local Government and the rest in State and I intend to stay an Independent.

The LNP's continuous tampering with the Queensland Electoral Act has only one aim and that is to destroy minor parties and Independents and entrench the two major parties as the only options for voters.

Queensland needs a Bill of Rights

Recently the Premier sunk to a new low and used Parliamentary privilege to accuse me of supporting criminal motor bike gangs.

I do not support criminals. I believe that people who commit crimes should face the full force of the law. I also believe everyone should be equal before the law, innocent until proven guilty and until found guilty of an offence the Magistrate should be able to impose reasonable bail conditions. Family and friends should be able to meet freely with one another.

This is contrary to the LNP's extreme VLAD laws that have been condemned by eminent Australians.

We need a Bill of Rights similar to that of New Zealand's that enshrines all the things that we value as Australians in law including the Freedom of expression, Freedom of religion, and Freedom of association.

The New Zealand Bill of Rights was enacted by the New Zealand Parliament in 1990 and under Section 25 Minimum standards of criminal procedure Part C, "everyone who is charged with an offence has the right to be presumed innocent until found guilty".

I am working towards presenting my Queensland Bill of Rights to Parliament in the New Year.

My contact details are listed below

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Rewards for Community Service

Each year I present Community Service Awards and say thank you to the many people who give so much to others without expecting anything in return. It is my chance to let them know their efforts are appreciated and our community is a better place because of them.

This year more than 130 people packed Nambour CWA Hall to recognise the services of 10 community groups and 28 individuals.

(Pictured receiving a Nicklin Community Services Award are the Red Cross Singers)



LNP slush fund—"nothing new"

Despite using the Budget deficit as an excuse to sack thousands of hardworking Queenslanders and to cut services, it didn't stop the LNP from changing the Electoral Act to gift themselves the lion's share of a \$4.5million 'slush fund'.

The government claims the funds will be used for policy development but has refused to put any requirements on how or where the money will be spent.

When I challenged the Premier he shrugged it off saying "it's nothing new. I say it is nothing more than theft."

White collar crims go free with LNP

Walton Construction, the developer of Nambour Coles went bankrupt leaving Coast subbies owed millions of dollars. Many went bankrupt losing their homes and businesses.

These fraudsters shuffle money from project to project without quarantining money paid for a specific job so that it stays with that job. It would take the swipe of a pen to change the law but the LNP refuses to upset the big end of town.

Wellington's Way

Newsletter from your
State Member for
Nicklin

Peter Wellington



The countdown to the next election has begun with a massive taxpayer funded public relations campaign extolling the virtues and achievements of the LNP Government.

But, I believe Queenslanders should think hard and long before giving this Government another chance. It has sacked thousands of workers, skyrocketed prices for essential services, privatised by stealth and intends to sell off our income earning assets if it is re-elected.

The Newman Government has abused the trust Queenslanders invested in it by squandering taxpayer's funds on self-promotion and quasi policy schemes that in reality are slush funds.

They changed Queensland's Electoral Laws to allow huge donations to Party coffers without disclosure and are reportedly spending \$80million pork barrelling the Premier's seat of Ashgrove.

The Costello doom and gloom Budget assessment which was damned by leading economic experts was aimed at terrifying Queenslanders into believing we were broke. What it did was to increase unemployment and destroy business confidence.

In his slash and burn Budget, Treasurer Tim Nicholls even targeted our pensioner and independent retirees by axing their rebates. Only the threat of anarchy by pensioner and community groups forced a retreat.

Assets for sale or lease

Economic expert Professor John Quiggan said privatisation of electricity had failed wherever it had been introduced in Australia and he refuted the Treasurer Tim Nicholls' claims of leasing'.

Quiggan said: "You've gone from the debt you have when you are not having a debt to the sale you are having when you are not having a sale."

Even more concerning is that Nicholls' is planning to "lease' the electricity poles and wires, that were never part of the original sale plan. I believe he has already hired consultants to advise on leasing or selling.

I believe essential services should be operated by the government because it is immoral to turn a profit from the sick, poor or disabled.

Independents & Katters in Accord

Recently in Parliament I signed an Accord with other Independents and the Katter Party that if re-elected we would not support the sale or lease of essential income earning government assets.

Instead of selling and creating longer lines in the unemployment queues, we should invest in major infrastructure projects such as the continuation of the duplications of the railway line and major roads.

I believe these Nation building projects would stimulate growth create employment and give Queenslanders some confidence in their future.

He who pays the piper calls the tune

Attorney General Jarrod Bleijie's Bill which scrapped the cap on political donations and spending and increased the disclosure threshold from \$1000 to \$12,400 will I believe open the door to corruption.

During the NSW ICAC hearings into Australian Water Holdings the media reported Di Girolamo paid \$5000 up front to meet with Premier Newman.

These new increases to allowable donations will have the Big End of Town rubbing their hands in glee.

As the old saying goes 'he who pays the piper calls the tune'.

Hands off our Town Plan

With the ink hardly dry on the Sunshine Coast Regional Council's Town Plan, the LNP government has been pressuring Council to change it to accommodate Sekisui's proposal for 10 storey high-rise buildings at Yaroomba and to support Stockland's proposal for Halls Creek south of Caloundra..

Those people concerned about changes to our new Town Plan need to lobby divisional councillors. Only seven councillors need to vote NO to stop the changes. Be assured if this proposal for a height increase to 10 storeys goes ahead it will open the floodgates for future developments coast-wide . With no community input, the developers had already received support from Premier Newman and the Mayor.

Spectre of Joh looms

The LNP war chest is brimming over and the PR campaigns have started but, even the LNP's staunchest supporter the Courier Mail has written: ""Spectre of Joh looms large" warning about a return to the dark days of Queensland.

No separation of powers

Attorney General Bleijie controversial appointment of Magistrate Tim Carmody as Queensland's highest law officer gives the Government control of every one of the State's corruption fighting bodies and destroys the State's separation of powers.

The LNP's iron clad arm controls the Government, our Courts and the Police. They also control the Crime and Corruption Commission and the oversight Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee that were established following the Fitzgerald Enquiry into the corrupt Bjelke Petersen Government.

An example of their power is their sacking of the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee when it dared to question the credibility of the Government appointed Chair Dr Ken Levy.

Newman calls protestors 'scum bags'

Bodyguards, scanners and police featured at the Sunshine Coast's Community Cabinet meeting.

Newman was so terrified of a small protest group he scuttled in around the back. He had just surfaced after his dash to North Queensland to avoid the fall-out from the Carmody appointment, labelled those daring to raise their voices in protest "scum-bags."

A massive police presence, scanning devices before entry ensured only thoroughly vetted persons got inside. And those wanting time with the Premier or his Ministers needed prior written approval all questions had to be previously evaluated.

When Premier Anna Bligh fronted an angry mob in Gympie over the Traveston Dam she stood for four hours taking questions from the floor. There was plenty of heckling, but she didn't abuse anyone or go in through the back door.

What more can I say?

Queensland's former Integrity Commissioner David Solomon has likened selling access to ministers through political fundraisers to prostitution, calling for the practice to be made illegal.

And he said the Newman Government had repeatedly rejected his calls to make more lobbyists publicly accountable.

He also took aim at governments that change political donation rules to allow donors to remain anonymous and said it "confirmed in the public mind the low regard they have for politicians".

There's lies, lies and "tactical lies

Just ask Deputy Premier Jeff Seeney, he has form for "tactical" lies.

And who can be trusted to keep a confidence?

Not the Attorney General according to former Solicitor General Walter Sofronoff QC who said Jarrod Bleijie is "untrustworthy and has a hint of a nasty schoolboy's snicker".