

Will Hodgman MP

Leader of the State Opposition

Wednesday May 28, 2008

Bartlett continues Lennon's secrecy shame

The State Government's repeated failure to answer serious questions that have arisen from the "shreddergate scandal" continued as it used its numbers in State Parliament today to defeat the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry to investigate the events preceding and following the aborted appointment of Mr Simon Cooper as a Magistrate in 2007.

Leader of the State Opposition, Will Hodgman, said it is about time Tasmanians got some truthful answers to questions that go right to the core of this Government and the way it operates.

"This was a golden opportunity for the new Premier to tell Tasmanians where he stands in relation to upholding, and questioning where appropriate, standards of governance and ministerial conduct to raise the level of transparency and standards of governance in this State," Mr Hodgman said.

"The new Premier has unequivocally supported the former Premier's handling of both the aborted appointment of Mr Simon Cooper as a magistrate and TCC controversies. He can repeat the sound bite of drawing a line in the sand as much as he likes, but his actions today show he has done no such thing.

"Was it because he was covering for the former Premier, who was in fact the cause of this entire mess?

"Let's not forget that Mr Bartlett was part of a Cabinet that endorsed Mr Lennon's willful refusal to answer the most simple and direct questions on shreddergate. He is up to its neck in all this.

"What all this serves to reinforce is that there is no independent anti-corruption or investigative body to which this matter can be referred and this has to be addressed as it will not go away."

For further information or comment please call Ross Jordan – 0407 100 521

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