

From: LNP Media [LNP.Media@opposition.qld.gov.au]
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Subject: MEDIA RELEASE - Schwarten sweeps asbestos report under the carpet

Andrew Cripps MP

Shadow Minister for North Queensland, Reef Protection and
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Economic Development
Shadow Minister for Public Works
Member for Hinchinbrook

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Swarten sweeps asbestos report under the carpet

The Bligh Labor Government is only willing to tell half the truth about criticism of inappropriate handling of asbestos at a Mackay school which left QBuild workers exposed to asbestos dust.

One year after the Mackay West State School incident, Robert Swarten has refused to release the full report.

Shadow Minister for Public Works Andrew Cripps said the decision not to release the full report because it contained identifying information was a red herring, as it was standard practice for personal information to be blacked out in documents such as Rights To Information releases.

“Six months after this report was handed to the Minister all Robert Swarten is game to release is a 23 paragraph “overview” prepared by his own office,” Mr Cripps said.

“Just what is the Minister trying to hide?”

“The LNP has made repeated requests for this information to be released over the past six months.

“Inappropriate handling of asbestos is a serious matter.

“The Bligh Labor Government needs to be open and honest about the results of this report and it should be released in full.

“While students and teachers were fortunately not present at the time of the asbestos removal, we cannot escape the fact that the workers involved in this incident were put at risk,

“From the limited information the Minister has released we know there was confusion over handling practices and the asbestos management code of practice was not followed.

“The Minister claims this has been fixed but how can we trust anything this Government says?”

“Robert Swarten’s decision to tell only half the truth is not acceptable.

“We need to ensure QBuild’s workers are properly trained to identify and safely remove asbestos from our schools.”

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