



Speech by

JOHN MICKEL

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

Hansard 15 April 1999

RACQ ELECTIONS

Mr MICKEL (Logan—ALP) (10.18 a.m.): Today I am calling for a secret ballot for councillor positions in the RACQ elections. Decades after secret ballots have been accepted practice for the electorate at large and are also enforced in the union movement—in fact, they are carried out by a section of the Electoral Commission—the election for two councillors for the south-east zone of the RACQ seems oblivious to this fundamental tenet of democracy.

I believe that the RACQ is a magnificent organisation, providing a valued service for Queensland motorists. And given the age of some of the vehicles in my own household, the RACQ road service is very much appreciated by my own family. But yesterday in the mail I received a ballot paper to elect two councillors from three candidates. On the ballot paper provided, I am requested to tick two of the candidates, and a profile of the three candidates is provided. All of this is acceptable and fair. What is grossly unfair is the requirement that, beside where I have to tick the candidates, I have to sign my name. When one has a name like mine, I am pretty easy to identify.

I call upon the RACQ to match its outstanding service to motorists with a commitment to the highest standards of democracy. I believe that this ballot is irregular and in no way meets the highest standards required by the electorate at large. The RACQ should withdraw the ballot and reissue ballot papers which guarantee confidentiality for RACQ members. I know that the Opposition would demand this of us in the union movement. It is accepted by the electorate at large.
