



Speech by  
**Mr DENVER  
BEANLAND**

**MEMBER FOR INDOOROOPILLY**

---

Hansard 22 August 2000

**ELECTORAL FRAUD**

**Mr BEANLAND** (Indooroopilly—LP) (5.52 p.m.): I notice that not even the member for Nicklin can stand the Labor stench flowing from this issue of electoral corruption. Only yesterday the Leader of the Liberal Party called for the proper identification of those enrolling for the first time. The motion seeks to send the issue to the Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee to look at the processes. It was not so long ago that the committee looked at what the Commonwealth Government proposed in relation to toughening up enrolment and voting procedures. At that time many of us felt that there was insufficient evidence to show that this sort of electoral corruption was occurring within the broader community. But it is obvious that that is no longer the case; there is now very firm evidence of this following the recent conviction of Labor Party members on 79 counts of electoral corruption. This is certainly occurring and there is a need to have a fresh look at the whole process and not just the process of enrolments.

This morning the Leader of the Liberal Party pointed out—and he was so right—that it is easier to lodge a fraudulent enrolment form than it is to hire a video. That is something all of us in this country have known, but we have accepted in good faith that people will do the right thing. However, that is obviously not the case. No longer can Queenslanders accept the easygoing approach taken to electoral enrolments and procedures in the past.

Voting is both a right and a privilege. It is something that our forebears fought for long and hard. However, we must exercise the franchise on a legal and correct basis—the basis as set down in law—so that it is fair to everyone and people are not getting unfair advantage. However, the conviction of members of the Labor Party has highlighted that electoral rotting—the very issue that the committee looked at previously—is occurring. There is now ample evidence that it is occurring. It is of grave concern to all Queenslanders that election results might have been corrupted through the process that occurred in the Townsville seats. Therefore, it is important that correct electoral procedures are followed. Without that the whole process of government is corrupted and similarly the processes of this Parliament are corrupted.

Ensuring that people are enrolled correctly and meet the requirements of residency is something that all honourable members would pay great heed to. This is something into which the Electoral Commissioner and his staff put a great deal of effort. To see it being undermined in this deceitful and corrupt manner says a lot about the types of people involved. They are trying to undermine the processes that all Queenslanders have accepted over the decades as being correct and proper.

It is not much use to say that the Government is going to do something about it. We already see the Premier trying to stall. This morning we saw his unwillingness to come clean on a whole host of issues. More is required than just having LCARC look at the matter. No doubt when there is a full, open, public and independent inquiry into this whole rotten affair recommendations will also come forward as to the types of changes needed to the electoral roll not only of Queensland but also the whole Commonwealth. It is affecting the Commonwealth roll and the Queensland roll, which is taken from the Commonwealth roll. This is also a Commonwealth issue. It might be happening in other Australian

States also. This is not just a simple problem that applies to the electorates around Townsville; it is both a State and a Commonwealth issue. I support this motion. Tonight I say to the member for Nicklin that it is important not to rush this matter, because a host of other matters will come forward if there is an open, public and independent inquiry—

Time expired.

---