



Speech by

Miss FIONA SIMPSON

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

Hansard 15 May 2001

FISHERIES AMENDMENT BILL

Miss SIMPSON (Maroochydore—NPA) (8.11 p.m.): There has been a pattern of contempt developing in this parliament. It concerns me that tonight we have seen seven or eight pages of amendments dropped into the House. I wish to remind the House—

Mr REEVES: I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, I refer you to Standing Order 141, which states that the Speaker may refer to continued irrelevance or tedious repetition.

Mr Horan: She hasn't even started. You haven't heard what she has said yet.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I will listen to the point of order.

Mr REEVES: Standing Order 141 states—

... repetition on the part of a Member, either of his own arguments or the arguments used by other Members, and may after such warning direct the Member to discontinue his speech.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I have already ruled on that matter with the Leader of the Opposition. I was waiting to hear what the member for Maroochydore has to say.

Miss SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I accept that there is some validity in the member's point of order, and I ask the member for Maroochydore to bring new matters into the debate or resume her seat.

Miss SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr Speaker. As I had only started to speak, I think that it would have been pertinent for the member to actually listen to what I was going to say.

I remind the House that it was only a matter of weeks ago that the government came to this place and, once again, just before the committee stage of a bill—significant industrial relations legislation—some seven pages of amendments were dropped into the chamber without prior scrutiny. I also remind this parliament of the pattern of contempt that this government showed in the previous 49th Parliament. That pattern of contempt has continued tonight.

These are complex amendments that will affect a very important industry. We are trying to canvass in this bill difficult issues. We then find more significant issues dropped into the parliament at the last minute without proper consultation. I do not believe that this parliament should be gagged from speaking about the contempt of this government and the fact that we have not had the opportunity to consult with the people in our areas. My constituency includes people who operate out of the port at Mooloolaba, and they are potentially affected by the amendments to this bill. I have not had the opportunity to consult with those people. This bill relates to their livelihoods. Yet the people who sit opposite us in this parliament would like to gag this debate and stop us from having the opportunity to conduct proper consultation in relation to these amendments that have been put before the parliament.

I want it to be recorded that this bill is difficult legislation. Members of the opposition indicated previously, when debating the bill, that they wanted to see security of tenure, that they recognised that not all the issues were perfect and that there were some grave concerns. There will be major anger when the people in the industry realise that this government has taken the further step of treating this parliament with contempt.
