



Speech by

## JOHN MICKEL, MLA STATE MEMBER FOR LOGAN

Hansard 8 November 2000

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Hansard 3 May 2001

### LIBERAL PARTY BRANCH STACKING

**Mr MICKEL** (Logan—ALP) (10.27 a.m.): In the last parliament I predicted that the committee reviewing the Liberal Party branch stacking headed by Senator George Brandis would be a whitewash and would protect the practices which enabled Senator Brandis himself—

**Mr Seeney:** Why don't you talk about a Logan issue?

**Mr MICKEL:** There are some things that go without saying, and the member isn't one of them. I know that opposition members do not want to hear about Liberal Party branch stacking, but I want to say this to the House: if Peter Costello thinks he has a few problems with a Liberal Party memo, then by sheer luck I have obtained a copy of the Senator Brandis report; and what a whitewash it has been!

After 18 months work, the committee report has been released—all 10 pages of it. Under the proposals, in order to vote in a plebiscite, a Liberal Party branch member needs to satisfy only one of the following requirements. He needs to be ordinarily resident in the relevant federal electorate or an adjacent federal electorate. He has to have his principal place of business in the relevant electorate or an adjoining electorate. He or she needs to be a student at an educational institution in a federal electorate or adjoining federal electorate. Under these rules, a party member living in the federal seat of Ryan would be eligible to vote in a plebiscite in Ryan, Moreton, Brisbane, Griffith, Oxley, Rankin, Fadden—just about anywhere, actually. And if they do not qualify under any of these rules, their branch can qualify them by a two-thirds resolution of a branch meeting. And given that there are only three Liberal Party members here at the moment, they do not need too many.

The Brandis proposal entrenches branch stacking and rorting, as I predicted it would. So we will see a continuation of the international fly-in, fly-out branch stacking operations.

I am told that Santo cuts a very forlorn figure sitting out there at the international airport waiting for those late voters from Hong Kong to fly in and deliver him victory in Clayfield.

Time expired.

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