



Speech by

Mark McArdle

MEMBER FOR CALOUNDRA

Hansard Wednesday, 14 March 2007

MOTION: AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS

Mr McARDLE (Caloundra—Lib) (10.24 am): The opposition will be opposing this motion for the very simple reason that this is clearly an attempt to gag debate in this parliament and gag members of parliament who have an obligation and a right to bring to this chamber issues that affect Queenslanders and the good governance of this state. It is nothing more than that. The government may try to couch the proposal with such words as 'mandatory', but the proposal also contains phrases such as 'avoid saying anything inside the House' and 'avoid disclosing the substance of the disclosure'.

Dr Flegg interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Leader of the Opposition, a member of your team is on his feet.

Mr McARDLE: It is clearly an attempt to have this House gagged so the people of Queensland do not have a chamber within which to debate the issues that are important, and we will not tolerate it. The opposition will not stand for that. This House is to be open, it is to be forthright and it is to be honest. This is a deliberate attempt to gag us from raising issues that we should raise, and we will not support this motion.