



Speech by

Robert Messenger

MEMBER FOR BURNETT

Hansard Wednesday, 5 September 2007

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT REGULATION (NO. 2) 2007: DISALLOWANCE MOTION

Mr MESSENGER (Burnett—NPA) (9.13 pm): It is with great pleasure that I rise to contribute very briefly to this debate and support the coalition shadow minister's disallowance motion. It is complicated legal argument which has been succinctly described by the shadow Attorney-General and also the members for Southern Downs and Clayfield. Many of those opposite have tried to muddy the waters and they seem mesmerised by the Premier.

The reason we have this motion is the abhorrence of the little Labor monster section 159ZY. We want to see it destroyed. We want to see it wiped off the statute books which is the term that the member for the Southern Downs used. The opposition and also the Local Government Association do not believe that this government regulation will kill this abhorrent provision of the legislation, section 159ZY. It will be like trying to shoot a vampire with a silver bullet. The only way that we can be sure that section 159ZY is dead and gone forever and never to return again into this Legislative Assembly is by using the wooden stake of legislation rather than regulation.

The motion if passed tonight will be a small step towards fixing this unholy mess caused by this Labor government's mismanagement of local government. How many people would have died if the Labor Party's Triple S program of council amalgamations, boundary realignments and shared services were allowed to progress as we all thought they would have? None. That is the question.

We are going to have raised rates, fewer services and less democracy in this state if this Labor government is allowed to have its way. There is a message of hope and that message of hope is that when we are elected as the government we will de-amalgamate. There is that message of hope for those communities brave enough to have referenda.