



Speech by
Ted Malone

MEMBER FOR MIRANI

Hansard Thursday, 15 November 2007

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION (INDIGENOUS REGIONAL COUNCILS) AMENDMENT BILL; LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT BILL

Mr MALONE (Mirani—NPA) (3.57 pm): I rise to speak briefly on the Local Government Amendment Bill, which will take out the disgraceful part of legislation that allowed this government to sack mayors and councillors who proposed a referendum on the local government legislation that passed through this House in August. I obviously support that. The only real way I believe this legislation can be fixed is if all that local government legislation is taken out of the parliament. That is my view, and it is also the view of a lot of other people throughout Queensland.

One of the unfortunate issues that came to light as that legislation went through the parliament was that a lot of people throughout Queensland—mayors, councillors, council workers and others associated with local government—were reluctant to raise concerns in their general community because they feared there would be a backlash against them from this government. Indeed, there were very few protests in my neck of the woods simply because council workers in particular were concerned.

As I said, I do not wish to speak at any length because the opposition is supportive of that amendment to the Local Government Act. Certainly, the smaller councils in my electorate are very fearful of the services that they will be provided with as they move to regional councils. There has been quite a bit of dissension, particularly from the employees. Now what we are seeing is that, even though their jobs were guaranteed, it does not necessarily mean that their pay is guaranteed. I am aware of at least one council in my electorate—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hoolihan): Order! I would remind the member of my previous rulings in relation to this. Please come back to the terms of the bill.

Mr MALONE: I am speaking to the amendment to the Local Government Act and I am talking about local government.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! In relation to the removal of section 159ZY, there is no relevance in relation to people losing their jobs. I ask you to come back to the terms of the bill.

Mr MALONE: My real concern is that we have a situation here in the parliament where we are removing a piece of legislation from head legislation that reflects on all of the legislation. The whole bill that went through which was amended in August made a definite change to the legislation as a whole. The amendment was part of the legislation, and therefore I believe that we should be allowed to speak in general terms as the legislation was passed through the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The matter has previously been debated in this House and the section to which you are referring is a section of the Local Government Amendment Bill. I would ask you to come back to the bill in terms of relevance.

Mr MALONE: The situation in my electorate, quite frankly, is that the imposition of the sacking of councillors and mayors has had a negative impact on the relationship of the legislation to the general community. It had a stifling effect and it was only the very brave who spoke out against the legislation.

Right throughout the community a number of people have spoken out against the legislation with respect to that amendment, which was swiftly drawn up and in panic mode was passed through the chamber late at night. It reflects entirely on the legislation that passed through this House. The whole of the legislation, I believe, can be put in the same category as that amendment was put into the legislation—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Mirani, I have already explained about relevance. You have gone further and further and I have been tolerant. Please come back to the bill.

Mr MALONE: Every second phrase I am using is talking about the amendment to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Mirani, I will not debate this. I have made a ruling in relation to relevance.