



Speech by

## Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

Hansard Wednesday, 27 February 2008

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### MOTION: FULL PARLIAMENTARY TERMS

**Miss SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—NPA) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.56 pm): Listening to an electoral rorter give us a lecture about the constitutionality of elections is a bit rich!

**Mr LUCAS:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That is offensive and untrue, and untrue by virtue of any inquiry made in relation to the matter. I ask for it to be withdrawn.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Maroochydore.

**Miss SIMPSON:** I withdraw whatever he finds offensive.

**Mr SPEAKER:** No. You were asked to withdraw in an unqualified way.

**Mr Lucas:** Go and say it outside.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Maroochydore, if I can just ask you—

**Miss SIMPSON:** I withdraw. It is like putting Dracula in charge of the blood bank to expect the Deputy Premier to protect the rights of Queenslanders and give them security, stability and safeguards in their Constitution. It is just a bit rich. The Deputy Premier's actions are on the public record of the Shepherdson inquiry as far as the allegations of how many people were wrongly—how many?

**Mr Horan:** Eighteen.

**Miss SIMPSON:** Eighteen? Are there any higher bids? We have already heard about the electoral rorts of the Labor Party. That is why we have a concern that any constitutional change must be one where the people have security, where they have safeguards. That is something we will not back away from—the need for greater safeguards. Certainly, with this parliament being a unicameral parliament, it must have safeguards that this government keeps walking away from.

Actions speak louder than words. This Premier promised that there would be a more accountable government in Queensland and better FOI accountability. But what have we seen? The opposite. Actions speak louder than words when we look at this government's record with regard to early elections. It is interesting that the Premier has moved an amendment which strips away the original motion that the opposition put forward calling for this government to go full term. I think that is quite significant. If we look at the actions which speak louder than words with regard to her predecessor, Peter Beattie, it is rather interesting.

On 17 February 2006 Peter Beattie told the public that he would not be following the lead of Tasmanian Premier Paul Lennon 'because I believe in full terms and, no, I'm not tempted'. An interesting article quoting Premier Peter Beattie on 27 May 2006 stated—

Mr Beattie said today he would only call an early election if half his members were in a plane crash and he lost parliamentary majority.

"We have no interest in an early election at all and we will go the full term," he said.

...

"We have no intention of an early election at all and people shouldn't get excited about it.

He went on in June and in August to once again state that he would not call an early election, and a few weeks later what did we see? An early election was called.

Queenslanders expect something different from this new Premier—Premier Anna Bligh—but will they get something different? Will she do what Premier Beattie did and promise one thing and deliver another? The warning signs are there. We have already raised the value in having fixed terms here in Queensland. It is something that personally I strongly support, because this Labor government has run to early elections so many times despite lying to the people of Queensland about facing an early election. In fact, the lies that were told by this Labor government and the former Premier about going to an early election are legendary. Not only did it deny that it was going to an early election; it did it at a time when there were massive bookings for advertising. There were such huge bookings for advertising on behalf of the Labor Party that it was a little hard to keep it a secret. Everybody knew that it was going to an early election, despite the fact that Peter Beattie continued to deny it.

This government must display its commitment to hold up what they have said today—that is, that they would go to a full term. They have said it outside the parliament but they have stripped it out of this motion.

**Mr Fraser** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Treasurer.

**Miss SIMPSON:** We are calling on this Premier to stand by her commitment to go the full term in this place as well. Do not vote against the motion that the government must go full term because this is what the people of Queensland expect, but maybe she is just like her predecessor who told people one thing and did a different thing. That is certainly something that unfortunately brings politics into disrepute.