



Speech by

Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

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INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AMENDMENT BILL

Mr CRANDON (Coomera—LNP) (6.20 pm): I rise to make a small contribution to the debate on the Industrial Relations Amendment Bill 2009. This bill appears to right the wrongs of amendments to the Industrial Relations Act 1999 that occurred in 2002 when the then minister gave certain administrative responsibilities to the vice-president. It is unfortunate that these powers were not given to the president with the right for the president to then have the authority to delegate that power to the vice-president. We now find ourselves debating this matter with hope in our hearts that the Rudd Labor government may see fit to grant a degree of cooperation between the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission and the Australian Industrial Relations Commission, because at this point that is all it is: it is all hypothetical at the moment. That being said, assuming the Rudd government agrees, we may find that there will be a benefit to our system.

As has been alluded to previously, despite the government trying to talk up the Rudd IR changes the structure of this bill is simple. Each of the clauses deals with the deletion of 'vice-president' from a role and inserts the 'president'. A question that comes to mind is that of consultation, as it is not certain where the consultation took place. As the member for Gregory and others have stated already, the government fails to outline any of the so-called stakeholders it consulted with. It would be helpful to know if the consultation was indeed as widespread as has been implied.

The reality is that the bill is intended to streamline the functions of the president to be in charge of both the Industrial Court and the commission and its administration and it can be argued that the powers should rightly be vested with the president. The simple fact is that this bill corrects the mistake made in 2002 whereby the running of the Industrial Relations Court was split. I commend the bill to the House.