




Speech by
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Hansard Wednesday, 23 March 2011

QUEENSLAND FLOODS COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (12.02 pm): I rise to draw the attention of the House to issues which have arisen from business owners and associations seeking personal leave to appear at hearings conducted by the independent inquiry commissioned by the 'can't-do' Bligh Labor government. With reference to this issue and in response to two questions without notice from me and the member for Southern Downs, the Premier stated on 10 March—

The court will actually come to you and help you make a statement and a submission. It does not get much easier than that.

Further, the 'can't-do' Premier stated—

I would just make the point that there are many people who will want to present material to the commission who will not want to do it in a public hearing. They should be given the right to do it in whatever way suits them, and that is what will happen.

I repeat: 'They should be given the right to do it in whatever way suits them, and that is what will happen,' said the 'can't-do' Premier of Queensland.

I have met with flood affected businesses—representing over 130 businesses in the Rocklea area—and their legal representatives. Those legal representatives did in fact, on behalf of those 130 businesses who were flood affected, seek leave to appear before the commission. Their first submission to seek leave to appear before the commission was refused, and we have raised that issue in this House. Their second submission to the commission—

Government members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I take personal offence when government members laugh at the fact that 130 businesses represented by legal counsel could not get leave to appear before a commission.

Mr WILSON: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. The member clearly does not understand the separation of powers. It is a matter for the royal commissioner to determine who should appear before them and who should not.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hoolihan): Order! That is not a—

Mr BLEIJIE: And I—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, please resume your seat. That is not a point of order. I call the member for Kawana.

Mr BLEIJIE: Perhaps the minister should know the standing orders in this House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, your comments are offensive to the chair and they will be withdrawn or I will sit you down.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. This commission of inquiry is set up so people can seek leave to appear before it. The Premier has said in this place that, through whatever means necessary, people will have the

right. They sought leave to appear and represent the 130 businesses that were flooded, and they have been denied access twice. I table for the benefit of the House two documents with both refusals.

Tabled paper: Copy of a letter, dated 7 March 2011, from the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry to Hawthorn Cuppaidge & Badgery regarding an application for leave to appear at hearings conducted by the commission [\[4155\]](#).

Tabled paper: Copy of a letter, dated 17 March 2011, from the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry to Hawthorn Cuppaidge & Badgery regarding leave to appear before the commission [\[4156\]](#).

(Time expired)