



Speech by  
**Curtis Pitt**

**MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE**

Hansard Thursday, 17 May 2012

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**TREASURY (COST OF LIVING) AND OTHER LEGISLATION  
AMENDMENT BILL**

**Mr PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (4.04 pm): I rise to oppose the motion moved by the Treasurer. Labor will be opposing this motion. At the first opportunity those opposite are going to great lengths to show their true colours. The conservative government is showing worrying signs of what the next three years may bring. The core of parliamentary democracy is the role of the Legislative Assembly to analyse and scrutinise law that is put in place. This is the very first bill from the Treasurer. The Premier put one through earlier, but he was so quick on the trigger that unfortunately we were not able to jump.

What we see here is a proposal that because it has gone to, as the Premier said in public statements, the biggest committee of all, anything related remotely to election commitments may well be put through this parliament without going through the committee system. That is the very core of the responsibilities of members of parliament. We are here to represent all of the people of Queensland and scrutinise in detail legislation that is proposed. That is the purpose of the committee system.

This proposal flies in the face of what we heard from the Premier when speaking to the previous bill. Essentially we heard from the Premier about the importance of the committee system. Now we are seeing the Treasurer wishing to put this bill through without it going to a committee, simply because they have gone to the so-called biggest committee of all. This is exactly what we should not be seeing here in Queensland.

We are here to scrutinise legislation and to go through it in detail. You might well get away with an election campaign full of gimmicks and slogans and putting up big-picture stuff, but this is where we get to the minutiae; this is where we get to the detail. It is very important that we look at what is included in the bill. The bill may well have some good points. We would like to look at this bill in detail before voting on it. We would like to see exactly what is in it. Rather, it is being brought on in such a rushed fashion.

What I have previously stated is still correct. This is the first opportunity to see this House operate under these new and unique arrangements. Those opposite are showing their true colours. I think they show contempt for this House and the broader community by saying, 'We do not need the committee system. We will put it through.' This bill should be put through a committee. There is no reason that cannot happen. Those opposite are looking to weaken the committee system. They are basically refusing to put legislation through committees, even though that was part of an election commitment. What is their definition of an election commitment or a campaign initiative? We do not know the answer to that. This is an arbitrary decision by this government. They are obviously going to continue to do this. This is a sign of things to come. It is very disappointing. People on that side of the House and those who come around to the other side of the horseshoe will be very disappointed if they do not think this is what they signed up for. They did not sign up to have things rushed through the House.

**Mr Stevens:** Queensland voted on it!

**Mr PITT:** I take the interjection from the Leader of the House. This is not the way this is meant to be. This is actually an election commitment; it is not a bill that has been put through the House. Committees should be looking at this. They should be scrutinising it.

Those opposite are ramming through this legislation without providing proper detail. This is not just about the opposition, the two members of Katter's Australian Party or the two Independents; this is actually about all of the members of the government, who should be looking at this and asking what part of this is going to affect their electorate. They are not getting the opportunity to put their case forward. This is being rammed through without any negotiation or scrutiny by this parliament. The Premier claimed that they would govern with humility, grace and dignity. It looks as though humility, grace and dignity are the orphans of the LNP. They are off to a very bad start.