



Speech by
Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

Hansard Wednesday, 20 June 2012

**CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL:
DECLARED URGENT**

Mr PITT (Mulgrave—ALP) (8.50 pm): I rise to oppose the motion moved by the Attorney-General. What we are seeing here is exactly what we saw at the early stages of the Newman government. Essentially, that is that they are willing to ride roughshod over our committee system—a committee system that was developed through a bipartisan approach. It is disgraceful the way they are treating this parliament. They are continuing to treat the parliament with contempt. This is typical of the way we have seen this government act from an early stage.

We have no issue with the fact that this bill has been introduced tonight even though we would have appreciated the courtesy of it happening through the usual processes. The usual process is that the Manager of Government Business would discuss the business of the House for the week with me as the Manager of Opposition Business. That was an informal decision of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly. The formal decision refers to talking about bills that the government may wish to be referred to a committee and the setting of the reporting time frames.

I am pre-empting things a little bit, but I certainly know, after a discussion with the Manager of Government Business, that there will be some additional changes and I may speak to those on a separate occasion. This is an example of a government that is really unable to do what they said they were going to do. They said that they were going to put pride into the committee system. They said that they would use the committee system in a faithful way and that they would be governing with humility, dignity and grace. We are not seeing that.

This is typical of this government. They have basically had a brawl in the party room. They have had the executive telling the party room what to do—getting ahead of themselves—and this is exactly what we would expect from this group. It is certainly no surprise that we saw a couple of other bills introduced earlier today by the Attorney-General. I put on the record that I certainly do not blame the Manager of Government Business for that. I certainly think he is a fair dealer and he is very honourable in his intentions in speaking to us.

I lay the blame fairly and squarely on the so-called strategy team for the government comprising the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer. I know that that is the same group that the Attorney-General so desperately wishes he was a part of. But he is not a part of it. He is not in the inner circle. He is parroting everything that he is told to say.

We will be opposing this motion. This is another example of the new government not actually using the committee system in the way that it was intended to be used. It was given a mandate for change. We accept that. But it was not given a mandate to ride roughshod over this parliament and ignore the bipartisan committee system agreed to under the previous government.