



Speech by


**David Gibson**

**MEMBER FOR GYMPIE**

Hansard Thursday, 15 November 2012

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## **ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER LAND HOLDING BILL: MOTION**

 **Mr GIBSON** (Gympie—LNP) (4.59 pm): It is amazing that members of the opposition would move this motion. They have the opportunity in this House to move whatever amendments they may see fit and this motion is an admission that they are the laziest opposition ever to grace this parliament. Instead of getting on with the job and putting forward amendments, we see them shirking their responsibility and trying to defer it back to the committee system when they know full well that when this committee system was designed it was not about being a support structure for lazy and incompetent oppositions; it was about examining legislation. As we have heard, there have been submissions put forward that the bill be amended and yet not one amendment is being put forward by this opposition because it is too lazy to get on with the job.

No other reforms can be implemented until the issue of leases is resolved. That was made very clear through all departmental briefings and the failure of the opposition to acknowledge that shows that it is grandstanding on this issue. There are people who are legally entitled to a lease and this government has no option but to grant them that lease and this bill will ensure that that occurs. What we are seeing today is nothing more than an abuse of standing orders. Standing order 141 clearly states—

Amendments may be proposed to the question for the second reading of a Bill, provided that the amendment is strictly relevant to the question for the second reading.

I put it to this House that the motion that has been moved is not strictly relevant; it is about a lazy opposition that has not bothered to draft any amendments to this bill to reflect any changes that it may wish to make. I urge all members to vote against this motion.