



Speech by

**Hon. Jeff Seeney**


**MEMBER FOR CALLIDE**

Hansard Thursday, 29 November 2012

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## **PARLIAMENT OF QUEENSLAND (REGISTERED POLITICAL PARTIES) AMENDMENT BILL**

### **Second Reading**

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (7.17 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Very briefly, I want to expand on the comments that I made earlier with regard to the position that I shared with Peter Beattie. I have here quite a lengthy quote. When Peter Beattie introduced the bill in 2003, the last time that this issue arose—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Miss Barton): Order! Deputy Premier, my understanding is that you do not speak to the motion but you may speak in reply.

**Mr SEENEY:** But I can speak to the motion. I would dispute that, but I am prepared to accept that. The motion is that the bill be read a second time.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** My apologies, you have the call.

**Mr SEENEY:** The then Premier, Peter Beattie, said—

I want to set out the principle behind this and the reason why I believe it is important that we fund oppositions effectively and appropriately. It is well known and it is true if governments do not have effective oppositions then that can in the long term affect their performance. I believe we have checks and balances in place internally to make sure that we continue to perform well. I would not accept lesser standards, but it is important that there be an effective opposition to keep us on our toes and, without resourcing, that is impossible.

That is what Peter Beattie said in 2003. It applied then and it applies now. He went on to say—and this is the bit that I agreed with him about, because there is a role in this parliament for the opposition, irrespective of the numbers, irrespective of whether the opposition has seven, as it does now, or 37. The opposition plays a role as the alternative government that the people who sit on the crossbenches never have the responsibility for and never get involved in. They get the easy ride. The people who constitute the opposition have to do the hard work. Having sat for so long where the member for Inala now sits, I know how onerous that job can be, but it is an essential job for this parliament and it is work that the crossbenchers never have to do. Peter Beattie went on to say—

Think of the complicated bills that come before this House. The reality is that the Leader of the Opposition is the alternative Premier. He has to respond to every one of them, or one of his shadow ministers does. If he does not have the firepower behind the scenes to properly resource either his own argument or his shadow minister's argument, he cannot do his job competently. It would not matter who occupied that role. That is why it is so important.

That is what Peter Beattie said in 2003; that is what I say tonight. Those of us who knew Peter Beattie know that he probably would have said it a whole lot more eloquently than I could, but I agreed with him then and I agree with him now.

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Miss Barton): Order! Members, it may come as a surprise but I am actually struggling to hear the Deputy Premier.

**Mr SEENEY**: I agreed with him then and I agree with him now. I commend this bill to every member of the House.