



Speech by


**Shane Knuth**

**MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE**

Hansard Thursday, 21 June 2012

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## **CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (9.41 pm): I rise to speak against the Civil Partnerships and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, rushed in by the LNP last night, which endorses former Treasurer Andrew Fraser's civil union legislation. Six months ago every LNP member voted against this legislation. Six months ago the LNP accused the ALP of rushing this legislation over a two-week period. The LNP is steamrolling this through in less than 24 hours and it is completely unacceptable. A value is a value. A belief is a belief. A belief stands the test of time, whether it is from 500 years ago or five days ago. I, along with millions of Christians, take offence at the Premier stating that our views are outdated and I request that on the parliamentary record in this House the Premier make a formal public apology to the Queensland Christian community.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr KNUTH:** I want to read an extract from an article in which Catholic Archbishop Mark Coleridge urges the LNP to—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): Order! I cannot—

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I cannot hear. There is too much audible noise. I will take the point of order.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The Attorney-General keeps interrupting. He is not sitting in his designated seat. I ask you for your ruling.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Attorney-General has a choice—either to sit quietly in that seat or to return to his seat if he wishes to interject. I call the member for Dalrymple.

**Mr KNUTH:** I will now read an extract of an article, and it states—

Archbishop Mark Coleridge of Brisbane has appealed to the Liberal National Party to uphold a promise made before the recent Queensland state election to repeal the previous Government's civil partnerships legislation.

It continues—

'It is not at all clear to me or to the Church I represent that it requires any kind of registration or civil partnership, let alone some kind of same-sex marriage.'

It continues—

'The Catholic Church is disturbed by anything that reduces traditional marriage to just one among a number of equally valid or invalid options; and registration, civil partnerships and same-sex marriage do that with differing degrees of intensity' ...

It continues—

'To reduce marriage in that way would be to do a real disservice to the common good.'

I table that article.

*Tabled paper:* Article from *The Catholic Leader*, dated 24 June 2012, titled 'Push to repeal legislation grows' [\[390\]](#).

It continues—

'The Church does not claim ownership of marriage, but we do have a strong sense of responsibility for the common good, which I do not doubt the Premier and his Government share.

'That is why I have contacted them, asking that they vote to repeal the civil partnerships legislation in toto.

I also table an article from the *Australian* on 21 June 2012 which states—

But addressing an ACL gathering in Brisbane on Sunday night, Mr Newman said 'if we get into government and can (repeal the law), we will repeal it.'

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Australian*, dated 28 February 2012, titled 'Campbell Newman "panders to Christians" on repealing civil unions' [391].

An article from the *Courier-Mail* from 28 February 2012 states—

The LNP membership across the state wanted civil unions repealed, the president of the party Bruce McIver says.

Mr McIver, in what he says will be his only campaign interview, said the LNP's state council voted against the civil unions last year and that reflected the view of the party's 14,000 members.

If he supported the views of members opposite, I would be supporting them tonight as well.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 28 February 2012, titled 'Video exclusive: Bruce McIver reveals LNP's challenges' [392].

Not once did the LNP say during the election that it would retain the register of same-sex relationships, and it is like listening to the Labor Party all over again! The Assembly of God community opposes this bill. The Catholics oppose this bill. The Mormons oppose this bill. The Baptists oppose this bill. The Australian Family Association opposes this bill. Family Voice opposes this bill. The LNP membership opposes this bill. The LNP state council opposes this bill. LNP President, Bruce McIver, opposes this bill. Katter's Australian Party opposes this bill, and I oppose this bill.