




Speech By  
**Annastacia Palaszczuk**

**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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**INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS) AND OTHER ACTS AMENDMENT BILL:  
DECLARED URGENT**

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (3.55 pm): The opposition will be opposing the motion moved by the Leader of the House because, once again, we are seeing the LNP using its massive majority on the floor of this parliament to rush through bills and not allow the freedom of speech and the freedom of expression which goes to the heart of the legislation that will be before this chamber. We are prepared to stay to the early hours of the morning to debate this legislation. We are prepared to stay here and work through the night to make sure that the voices of workers are heard in relation to this bill.

We have just been presented with volumes of amendments—volumes of amendments—that the Attorney guaranteed that we would get a briefing on that we now have to go through because this government wants to push them through. This is a guillotine by the government. This is an example of a guillotine by the government in relation to what I regard as a suppression of freedom of speech in this state. Let the debate be without guillotine. Let the members of this House express themselves and not have a government put the gag order in relation to this very important piece of legislation. There are 22 names on the list to speak and if 22 members want to speak on this bill they should be able to speak on this bill. We have concerns about the clauses in this bill. We have concerns about the amendments to this bill and we want to debate this on the floor of the House.

To my knowledge, the Leader of the House has not discussed this with the Manager of Opposition Business. He has not discussed this with the CLA because the CLA meeting has been postponed until Thursday. So this issue has not even come before the Committee of the Legislative Assembly. It is usually scheduled on a Tuesday and it has been postponed until Thursday. The government has postponed the Committee of the Legislative Assembly. It has not gone to the Committee of the Legislative Assembly to discuss this guillotine. It has not even had the courtesy to discuss this with members of the opposition or the Independents or members of the Katter party.

This legislation is very important. This is the legislation that we wanted to discuss and debate because we want to stand up for the workers' rights in this state. It has been through a committee. It has come back very quickly. It was tabled in this House on Tuesday, so it has laid on the table for one day. We now have a situation where it has to be rushed through within this day's sitting.

**Mr Stevens:** You're wasting some of your time now.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** You had your right to speak, Leader of the House, and now I have my right to speak.

**Mr Bleijie:** He didn't speak as long as you.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Those on my right will cease interjecting.

**Mr Pitt:** Why does this have to be passed this week?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Yes. There is no urgency for this bill to be passed this week—absolutely no urgency. The debate could be started today and it could then be recommenced in the August sittings following estimates. But we know what this legislation does. It curtails the democratic freedom of speech in Queensland. We know that this legislation is unheard of, it is unprecedented and it sets the bar at a ridiculous level for not only union organisations but also employer organisations. We know from the committee hearings that people are not happy with this bill. We know that they came to the hearings and expressed their feelings. But because of the ideological nature of the LNP, it wants to rush this bill forward and use the guillotine. It is going to use its massive majority of 74 seats to silence the members of this House who were elected to have their say. That is a complete and utter disgrace and today members should hang their heads in shame for not allowing the freedom of speech that is required.

In summary, we will be opposing this motion. If members have the desire to speak, they can add their names to the list. They do not have to interject. They can put their name on the speaking list and they can make their points heard.

**Mr Cripps** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I find that offensive and I ask the member to withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): Order! Leader of the Opposition, which member made the comment?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The Minister for Natural Resources. I ask him to withdraw.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Minister, you have been asked to withdraw. It would help the House.

**Mr Cripps:** I withdraw.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The opposition will be opposing this motion.