




Speech By
Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 15 October 2013

**CRIMINAL LAW (CRIMINAL ORGANISATIONS DISRUPTION) AMENDMENT
BILL; TATTOO PARLOURS BILL; VICIOUS LAWLESS ASSOCIATION
DISESTABLISHMENT BILL**

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.46 pm): The opposition will be opposing this urgency motion, but let me state very clearly from the outset why we are opposing this urgency motion. We believe that these laws can be passed this week and we believe that these laws can go through the committee system. Queenslanders deserve nothing less. Here is an example of an arrogant government wanting to use its massive majority—74 seats in the Queensland parliament—to ram through these laws without any scrutiny.

I have placed on the public record my desire as Leader of the Opposition with my opposition colleagues to work constructively with this government. In an act of goodwill, I personally contacted the Deputy Premier and asked for a briefing following cabinet. He gave me an undertaking that he would take that into consideration. We still do not have a briefing and today this Queensland parliament has been presented with no fewer than three bills amounting to over 160 pages of laws that this government expects to ram through tonight—not tomorrow, not on Thursday, but tonight. How can any reasonable person be expected to get across the details of this legislation in two or three hours?

This is an arrogant government that has embarked on a committee system. There is no reason whatsoever that these bills could not be referred to the committee tomorrow morning. Tomorrow morning, the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee could meet and examine these bills. Tomorrow the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee could meet and examine these bills.

I am very concerned whether the Law Society of Queensland has been consulted. I am concerned whether the Bar Association of Queensland has been consulted on these laws. I am concerned whether the Police Union has been consulted on these proposed laws. In relation to mandatory sentencing, yes, I am concerned whether the Chief Justice has been consulted in relation to these laws. If this government was open and transparent—and we know that the Premier said that he would lead an open and transparent government—what are they hiding from? Why are they bypassing the committee system? Why can these laws not go via the committee system for the scrutiny that they deserve? All we have heard over the last couple of weeks is this drip-feed into the media about different proposals the government is considering. I am at a loss as to what stakeholders have been consulted. I am at a loss, if we are introducing—and these are the words of the Premier—the toughest laws in the world in relation to outlaw motorcycle gangs, as to why they cannot go through the committee process and why they cannot have the scrutiny that they deserve. If these are the toughest laws, what guarantee can the Attorney-General and the Premier give to this House and to the Queensland public that they will withstand any challenge in the High Court? Where is the legal advice? Will the Attorney-General table the Crown Solicitor's legal advice that these laws will stack up? Queenslanders deserve better than an arrogant government with 74 members who cannot in all honesty say, with hands on their hearts, that they are prepared to allow these laws to go through

without any scrutiny whatsoever—none! Zero! The Law Society cannot have a say in relation to these amendments, the Bar Association cannot have a say and the Chief Justice cannot have a say. It is unheard of that we would not hear from these people. It is unheard of that there is no consultation. I am surprised because I thought I lived in a democracy here in Queensland. I thought that people had a right to have their say, to voice their opinions.

In relation to this urgency motion, in my act of good faith in terms of speaking to the Deputy Premier I also asked for a security briefing. I asked for a security briefing about the problems on the Gold Coast, I asked for a security briefing about why additional security was needed in a government precinct and I asked for a security briefing about why additional security was needed here at Parliament House. I was denied that briefing. Why am I denied that briefing? This government, if it was open and transparent, would be allowed to let the Leader of the Opposition know what are the issues that are leading this government to ram through these laws.

The Queensland public has a right to know why this violence on the Gold Coast has escalated over the last 18 months of the LNP government. Who has been left in charge? This rests solely with the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. This has happened on his watch. This is a government that has said that it would allow an extra 100 police in the Gold Coast region. Did the Gold Coast get those 100 police? My understanding is that most of those people went to Logan, not to the Gold Coast.

In conclusion I want to make it very clear that the member for Kawana, now the Attorney-General of this state, stood in this chamber in 2009 and talked about the civil liberties of bikies. That is what you did. You got up in this House and talked about the civil liberties of bikies.

Madam SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I ask you to address your comments through the chair and refrain from using the term 'you'.

Mr STEVENS: I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition has strayed dramatically away from the urgency motion that she should be talking to. She has actually started to debate the bills already.

Madam SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I ask you to address the motion.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Once again I reiterate that there is no reason that these laws cannot be tested through the scrutiny of the committee system tomorrow and be passed by the end of the week. We have no opposition to the passing of these laws this week, but we believe they deserve the scrutiny that Queenslanders expect. I am still at a loss as to when I am getting a briefing.

Mr Bleijie: At three o'clock.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Here we have the arrogant Attorney-General saying, 'You can have a briefing at three o'clock.'

Mr Bleijie: It has been organised. Your office has not told you.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is absolutely disgraceful. Let us go through these laws. The Criminal Law (Criminal Organisations Disruption) Amendment Bill is amending how many laws in this state? And you want to ram that through tonight? I cannot get over the name of this one: the Vicious Lawless Association Disestablishment Bill. Who won the award in cabinet for coming up with that name? And the Tattoo Parlours Bill 2013, once again amending more acts and saying it is similar to New South Wales legislation. This is a disgrace when this Attorney-General talked about the civil liberties of bikies and now it is all rhetoric. This crisis has happened under your watch. It has happened under this LNP government.

Madam SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I ask you to address the motion before the House.

Ms PALASZCZUK: In conclusion, what happened on the Gold Coast in Broadbeach is completely and utterly unacceptable. All Queenslanders would agree with that. But we need to get these laws right. They should not be rushed through without proper scrutiny of the committee system and without scrutiny by the opposition. This government, with its 74-seat majority, is arrogant and out of touch. It is arrogant to the extreme and the democratic process is being subverted by this government. It is disgraceful that you want to come into this House, pass an urgency motion at 10 to three and then expect a debate to occur tonight. It is absolutely disgraceful and each and every one of you should hang your head in shame.

Madam SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I would ask you to address your comments through the chair.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I notice the Deputy Premier smirking. They talked about the civil liberties of bikies back in 2009 and condemned the Labor government's bill at the time, the Criminal Organisation Bill. I just have one thing to ask this arrogant LNP government: what do you actually stand for? How can you be so hypocritical as to come into this chamber after you voted against the Criminal Organisation Bill in 2009?

Madam SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I ask you to address your comments through the chair and refrain from using the term 'you' and follow the normal procedures.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We will be opposing this motion because we believe that this bill needs to go through the scrutiny of the parliamentary process. That is what Queenslanders expect. That is what Queenslanders deserve. This is an arrogant government that is out of touch and using its numbers to rush through laws without the due consideration of the committee process.