




Speech By  
**Annastacia Palaszczuk**

**MEMBER FOR INALA**

---

Record of Proceedings, 19 November 2013

**MOTION: PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE, REPORTING DATE**

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.23 pm): The opposition will be opposing the urgent nature of this bill.

**Mr Crandon:** Surprise, surprise!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** There is no need for those interjections. I can speak. The Attorney-General has just tabled approximately 180—let me get the exact number of pages so I am not misleading, even though my eyesight is not the best—175 pages of legislation in the Criminal Law (Criminal Organisations Disruption) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. For the last 10 minutes I have been listening to the Attorney-General and there is a range of amendments to—

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Coomera!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:**—various acts being proposed. It is not just amendments to the Crime and Misconduct Act; there are amendments to do with the District Court of Queensland, the Electrical Safety Act, the Justices Act, the Evidence Act, the Liquor Act, the Penalties and Sentences Act, the Police Service Administration Act, the Queensland Building Services Authority Act, the Racing Act, the Second-hand Dealers and Pawnbrokers Act, the Security Providers Act, the Tattoo Parlours Act, the Supreme Court of Queensland Act, the Tow Truck Act, the Workplace Health and Safety Act, the Weapons Act, the Transport Planning and Coordination Act and the Transport Planning and Coordination Regulation—and the list goes on. In all fairness I hardly think it is reasonable for a committee to consider tomorrow—and I am not aware at the moment what matters are currently before the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. It usually starts about 9 am on a Wednesday morning and then parliament resumes later that afternoon. So there is no notice to any stakeholders who may want to appear before the committee.

**Mr Pitt:** There was a press release.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Sorry, that is right. There was a press release sometime earlier this afternoon. There was no notice given. We are here at 20 past 10 on a Tuesday evening. No notice is able to be given so that anyone interested can come and ask questions in relation to this bill.

**Mrs Miller** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** This is absolute arrogance, as the member for Bundamba said. Then we are expected, as good members of parliament, to analyse these bills and to then come in here and make reasoned decisions without the proper scrutiny of a committee. This is all to be done in a short turnaround period so the bill can be back before this House by 10 am on Thursday, if my recollection is correct.

This is completely unacceptable. We are already aware of a matter which I understand will come before the House at 11 o'clock on Thursday. It is a very sensitive matter, a very serious matter, which needs the proper scrutiny of this House. Now we have the prospect of having this rushed through. The arrogance of this Attorney! We have already seen that there were mistakes in the original legislation because it was rammed through without the scrutiny of this parliament. Now, one day—tomorrow—is given to the proper scrutiny a 180-page bill. This is nonsense. It absolutely absurd to rush this through in the last sitting of parliament of the year. If it were so important, why was this not raised earlier today? Why is it being raised in the darkness of night, late in the evening at 10.25?

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No, there is absolutely no scrutiny by this Attorney-General, and he expects the members of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to be able to comprehend 180 pages before they go to a committee hearing at 10 am.

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** They have obviously already been briefed on it of course. Forgive me. Has any notice been given to the Bar Association to appear? Has any notice been given to the Law Society to appear? Has any comment on these 180 pages been sought from the Chief Justice? I do not think so. I would sincerely doubt that these organisations have had a legitimate enough reading of this legislation to be able to make an informed judgement. But no, this government is not interested in informed judgements. It is not interested in listening to the community views of stakeholders. Its approach is basically to pass the laws and ask questions later.

**Mr Pitt:** What's the old saying? 'Poor planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on ours.'

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take the interjection from the Manager of Opposition Business. In conclusion, it is absolutely astounding that we would have a late-night delivery of this bill of over 180 pages and for it to be brought back in on Thursday, the same day that we will be considering a very serious matter the report of which was tabled by the chair of the Ethics Committee today. I assume that matter would take up a considerable amount of time of this parliament because of its sensitive nature.

What we will see in this last week is bills being rushed through by this government once again without scrutiny. If you think that four or five hours is proper scrutiny, you have got to be kidding. The opposition will be opposing the urgent nature of the bill. The fact that they want to turn this around in a couple of days—within 48 hours—is completely unacceptable, and it is not fair to Queenslanders. It is not fair to the members of this parliament who want to do their job. The members of this parliament do not even have the opportunity to go out into their communities to talk to constituents about aspects that are contained in this bill, because you are looking at amending, from what I can see here, approximately over a dozen different bills. We will be opposing the urgent nature of this motion.