




Speech By
David Kempton

MEMBER FOR COOK

MULTICULTURAL RECOGNITION BILL

 **Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (8.32 pm): I wish to speak against the Multicultural Recognition Bill 2012. As I read through this extraordinary document I visualise the Leader of the Opposition putting the final touches on this masterpiece while softly humming to herself that old Dolly Parton great, *Here we come again*. This is more tired old ideas from an irrelevant Labor Party who learnt nothing from the lesson delivered to it on 24 March 2012. I have to say that is where the analogy ended.

The purpose of this bill is to recognise the valuable contribution of diverse groups of people to the Queensland community; to promote Queensland as a united, harmonious and inclusive community; and to ensure government services are responsive to the diversity of people. Excuse my lapse, but I thought this was Queensland and I thought we were already doing a great job of welcoming migrants from all over the world to our accommodating and generous society. The bill then provides for a plan, a council, a charter and if anyone, including a public servant, does not comply with the bill guess what happens? Absolutely nothing! Section 5 of the proposed bill specifically provides that no rights will be created, nor is any obligation imposed on any person. This is extraordinary. This is insulting to people who come from other countries.

This once great state of ours is staggering under a huge debt caused by Labor. How did those opposite place us in this dire predicament in the middle of an unprecedented resources boom? This bill gives us a clue. Red tape, green tape, superfluous legislation and regulation and tired old policy all play a role. There is a crude old adage: if it ain't broke don't fix it. I can say with considerable confidence that our LNP government does not need to interfere with what we are experiencing every day across our great state, nor do we need any more irrelevant legislation. We are out there every day recognising that our communities comprise people from all walks of life and recognise that they make a contribution to our society and our state.

I am confident that we do not need this bill as my electorate of Cook has a diverse and multicultural community. In fact, 23 per cent of the people in Mareeba were born overseas. The very economic and social fabric of Mareeba was built around this contribution, predominantly from Italian migrants, spanning over 75 years. In recognition of this contribution our government increased the funding for the Mareeba Multicultural Festival this year by 50 per cent. Giuliano Cordenas, chairman of the organising committee said—

The inaugural festival in 1999 attracted a crowd of 2,000 and now attracts 7,000 from 64 different countries. The difference between the other festivals and this one is that you come along for the day for free.

Fatima Metou said—

The festival is good for Mareeba town and Mareeba people and it brings business and the whole town waits for it. We never have any trouble in Mareeba. That's why I am part of the festival. We live in harmony and it doesn't matter where you are from, we are all Australians.

We do not need legislation to have communities acting in this way. It seems in my community at least we do not need this legislation. We do not need plans and we do not need a council or a charter. It is working just fine by itself. I do not support the bill.