




Speech By
Hon. Jarrod Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (4.03 pm): Oh, how it changes from government to opposition in such a short period of time! A couple of minutes ago we had the opposition leader saying, 'You should hang your heads in shame because of this.' Did the opposition leader hang her head in shame when she was in government and night after night her government would come in and guillotine debates? There is a fundamental difference here. We are guillotining the debate early, before the debate even starts. What did the Labor Party members do? They guillotined debate when they had had enough. When they were sick and tired of hearing the debate, then they would guillotine it. The opposition leader said, 'We want to be here all night. We want to be here all morning.' They did not for the past 15 years, because 10 o'clock would come and it would be all over, shut down, guillotined.

A government member: Schwarto would come in.

Mr BLEIJIE: Schwarto and then Judy Spence would come in and the debate would be shut down right there and then on the spot and all the members who wanted to express their freedom of speech, which the opposition leader espouses today, were not given their chance. If memory serves me correctly—and I will be corrected by the record if so—they guillotined the debate on the assets sales. I am sure they guillotined that debate. The opposition leader just said that she wants to be here all night to stand up for the workers. Where was the opposition leader when they sold the assets from under the workers? If my memory serves me correctly, another bill that they guillotined was the vegetation management bill. That was the first bill they introduced. It was the dodgy deal with the Greens. It was the preference swap in the 2009 election. Then they came in here, moved this legislation without any consultation and then guillotined it. In fact, it did not even go to a committee. The Deputy Premier may correct me, but I do not think we had the committee system established in 2009. So there was no committee process; there was just a guillotined debate. So it is the utmost hypocrisy for the opposition leader to come in here today and say that she wants to be here all hours of the morning, because that was not the case for the past 15 years. They guillotined debate after debate in this place.

I think Queenslanders are most disgusted by how a position can change in such a short period of time. For the past 15 years the members opposite had this position that debate should be guillotined, that the government has particular agendas and that the people elected governments for those particular agendas. They thought that they could come in here and get their agenda through. How the situation changes in opposition. The honourable Leader of the House has clearly indicated that we have the debate on the budget tomorrow and on Friday. It is the government's intention that this bill pass this evening. We think seven hours is a reasonable time to debate the bill, considering it has gone through the committee process. I have had roundtable meetings with stakeholders. We are

moving substantial amendments and we are not finishing the debate until midnight tonight. We think that is a completely satisfactory time.

I do not like digging into members' time—and the more they speak the more time they are digging into the debate—and I do not ordinarily do so, but I have to point out to the members the absolute hypocrisy of the opposition leader.

Mr Langbroek interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take that interjection from the education minister. The member for Nicklin stood in here and said that he hates this guillotine and he talked about freedom of speech. The people of the Nicklin electorate do not know who they voted for. I remember he came into this parliament wanting to do a dodgy deal, saying in the newspapers, 'I might serve on the shadow ministry of the Labor Party.' He was happy to do a little dirty deal with the Labor Party to serve in the shadow ministry. Then we see a few weeks later on the front page of the *Sunshine Coast Daily*, 'I'm with Clive,' or, 'I love Clive,' or something like that. So now he is with Clive. Probably in the middle of that he was with the Katter party. He is all over the place and it is all about the member for Nicklin—not about what is in the interests of the electorate of the member for Nicklin but what is in it for him. That is why he switches and changes and swaps and gets out on all sides of the bed.

A government member: And now he supports Gillard.

Mr BLEIJIE: And now he supports Gillard.

Mr WELLINGTON: I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! What is the point of order?

Mr WELLINGTON: The minister was aware that I was going to a Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee meeting so I could not stay in the chamber. He has now been speaking about the member for Nicklin. I have only heard part of his comments. I find the parts I heard offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn. He knew I would not stay in here to take issue with matters of privilege.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member will resume his seat. The member was not in the chamber. I was listening carefully to all that the Attorney-General said. I did not find anything he said unparliamentary. Nothing that I heard the Attorney-General say was unparliamentary. Member, you could have been here in the chamber for the duration of the debate. You made your decision. There is no point of order.

Mr BLEIJIE: I clearly point out the hypocrisy of the member for Nicklin and those seven opposite. When they were in government it was okay to guillotine debates.

Mr WELLINGTON: I rise to a point of order. I find the comments offensive. I was not in government. I have always been a member of the crossbench. I ask that that be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am listening very carefully to what the Attorney-General is saying. I am finding it difficult to see any personal imputation against you, member for Nicklin. However, for the sake of the debate and for things to proceed in the House perhaps the Attorney might withdraw and we can move on.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw and I will move on. Talking about the member for Nicklin, he made the comment in this House only a short period of time ago that if the guillotined debate proceeds this is what the Abbott government is going to do in the federal arena if they win the election in September. When did the member for Nicklin, when the Labor Party moved to guillotine debates, say 'This is the Gillard government you are going to get in Canberra?' Not once did the member for Nicklin stand up on that issue in relation to Gillard's government and say 'All these guillotined debates under the state Labor government is what you will get in Canberra.' Not once did the member for Nicklin do that.

Mr WELLINGTON: I rise to a point of order. The records will show I have opposed every guillotine motion put by the government in this state parliament.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nicklin, I do not find anything that the Attorney-General has said offensive, but there is obviously a different point of view that is happening here and I simply would ask that all members contribute to the debate in a calm and collected manner. The Attorney-General has the call.

Mr BLEIJIE: The member for Nicklin will go down in history as one of the biggest Labor Party supporters this parliament has ever known and taking the most vexatious points of order this parliament has ever seen.

Mr WELLINGTON: I rise to a point of order. I find those comments offensive. The Attorney-General continues to pursue an issue on which you have made a ruling.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Again it would help the House if the Attorney might withdraw.

Mr Seenev: But he didn't ask for it.

Mr WELLINGTON: I rise to a point of order. I heard the Deputy Premier say 'he asked for it'. I did not ask for it. The Attorney-General is continuing to pursue an issue—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member shall resume his seat. The member for Nicklin has found the comments offensive for which a withdrawal has been sought and I believe the Attorney made a withdrawal.

Mr LANGBROEK: I rise to a point of order. No, he did not.

Mr WELLINGTON: It is in relation to the Deputy Premier.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would simply ask the minister if he would withdraw and we can move on.

Mr LANGBROEK: I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I take that point of order, if I could deal with this first.

Mr LANGBROEK: It is a clarification, Mr Deputy Speaker, with respect. It is about whether a withdrawal was requested. It was not. The member for Nicklin is now overhearing things and making up what he thinks he is hearing from the Deputy Premier.

Mr WELLINGTON: I find those comments offensive. I am not making up comments.

Mr LANGBROEK: I withdraw, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr Wellington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nicklin, I have given a lot of latitude to your comments and I have asked for calmness in the House and I do not find the way you are conducting the debate as showing calmness. I have asked the Attorney to withdraw. You have said the comments were offensive. You may not have specifically requested there be a withdrawal, but I have asked the Attorney to. He is willing to. I suggest we move on and I will be very carefully listening for points of order that are under the standing orders.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I accept your wise counsel, noting that the honourable member did not request the withdrawal but I withdraw, and in the withdrawal may I, for the benefit of the member for Nicklin, table a copy of the *Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly* and perhaps the member for Nicklin may take the opportunity to go and read the standing orders. He has been a member of this parliament for so long he ought to know the standing orders in this place. The point I am making is the hypocrisy of the Labor Party. It came in here and moved guillotine motions. I accept that it is the right of the member for Nicklin to stand in this place and talk against a motion moved by the government, as is the case with the guillotine motion. I accept the member's absolute right to do it. What I do not accept is when the member says this is the government you are going to get at a federal level because we guillotine this particular motion. That is an absolute imputation at the federal level and I do not accept it. As I said, and I will be held to account on this by the record because I will be corrected, but I am absolutely sure I am right, the member for Nicklin, whenever we have had a guillotine debate in this place, has never made those inferences about the federal Gillard government.

A government member: Always been a Labor stooge.

Mr BLEIJIE: The member for Nicklin has always been a Labor stooge in this parliament.

Mr WELLINGTON: I find those comments offensive. I ask they be withdrawn. He is pursuing a line of argument that you have continually ruled on.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw, Mr Deputy Speaker. There will be seven hours of this debate. The Labor Party and the member for Nicklin have wasted a lot of opportunity for their members to debate this particular bill. It is going to be a long night. I was anticipating receiving the support of honourable opposition members for this bill but I think they have shown their cards and that they do not particularly support this bill. I think midnight is a completely satisfactory time for this debate to finish. As I said, if we had been the Labor Party, at 11.50 when there was another 30 members on the speaking list, Schwarto would have come in here after a conversation with Judy Spence out the back—

A government member: Upstairs.

Mr BLEIJIE: Upstairs. He would have woken up from the delusional world he lived in and said, 'Gee, what's this? Are we in the next morning? Is this debate still going? What's happening? Get down there and finish this off.' At 11.50 they would have come in and said the debate is over at midnight. Andrew Fraser was one of the biggest offenders. He always came in here and guillotined

certain debates. I remember Paul Lucas doing it. There will be ample opportunity for all members, including the member for Nicklin, to debate this.

Ms Trad interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the member for South Brisbane, who I understand was not here for the previous Labor government and does not understand the guillotine debate, but I can assure the member for South Brisbane—

Ms Trad interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

A government member: She was behind the scenes.

Mr BLEIJIE: Indeed. I take that interjection. I said the member for South Brisbane may not have been in this chamber but I did not say she was pulling the strings from outside. The member for South Brisbane ought to go back and have a look at the record of guillotined debates and she will see that the biggest offenders of guillotined debates in this place is the Australian Labor Party, Queensland Division, not the ALP.