




Speech By
Hon. Jarrod Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (10.30 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, I have just witnessed the most hypocrisy that I have seen in this place. We have talked about hypocrisy from the Labor Party for many years, but I have just witnessed it. On 15 October, when I introduced the VLAD legislation, the tattoo parlours legislation and the gangs disruption legislation, I have just read *Hansard* on my mobile phone and the opposition leader said, 'There is no reason'—

Ms Palaszczuk: Table it!

Opposition members: Table it!

Mr BLEIJIE: *Hansard* is a public record. You can go and get the *Hansard*. The opposition leader said 'The legal affairs committee is meeting tomorrow, and there is no reason why they cannot consider the bills tomorrow.'

Mr PITT: I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! The Attorney-General will resume his seat. What is your point of order?

Mr PITT: Through other precedents that we have seen in this parliament, I ask that the Attorney-General table the device that he's—

Mr BLEIJIE: I read a note from my mobile phone. How ridiculous is the opposition member: he calls himself the Manager of Opposition Business and that is how he behaves. The opposition leader said on 15 October, 'The legal affairs committee is meeting tomorrow. They can consider the bill.' What has changed for the Leader of the Opposition from 15 October? I am just saying the opposition leader said—

Mr PITT: I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the Attorney-General could take his seat.

Mr PITT: This Attorney-General has moved an urgency motion. This motion should be put.

Mr BLEIJIE: There is no urgency motion. It is referred off to a committee.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the Attorney could take his seat.

Mr BLEIJIE: I have 29 minutes left.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will come back to the Attorney.

Division: Question put—That the Attorney's mobile device be tabled.

AYES, 10—Byrne, Douglas, Knuth, Mulherin, Palaszczuk, Pitt, Trad, Wellington. Tellers: Miller, Scott

NOES, 60—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Berry, Bleijie, Boothman, Cavallucci, Choat, Cox, Crandon, Cripps, Davies, C Davis, T Davis, Dempsey, Dickson, Dillaway, Dowling, Elmes, Emerson, Flegg, Frecklington, Gibson, Grant, Grimwade, Gullely, Hart, Hathaway, Holswich, Johnson, Kempton, Krause, Langbroek, Latter, Maddern, Mander, McArdle, McVeigh, Millard, Minnikin, Molhoek, Ostapovitch, Powell, Pucci, Rickuss, Ruthenberg, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Smith, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Symes, Trout, Watts, Woodforth, Young. Tellers: Kaye, Menkens

Resolved in the negative.

Mr BLEIJIE: As I was saying, only a few weeks ago during debate of the urgency motion for the criminal gangs disruption bill, the Vicious Lawless Association Disestablishment Bill and the Tattoo Parlours Bill, the opposition leader said that it was rushed legislation and that we should not be doing it. She spoke about the arrogance of the government and the arrogance of the Attorney-General. She then said, essentially, 'but it will be all okay if you refer it to the committee. The committee is meeting tomorrow. They can have a look at the legislation.' And then they would be okay with the urgency. Well, what has changed in the space of two weeks?

The opposition leader is a hypocrite—an absolute hypocrite. Two weeks ago it was okay for the Legal Affairs Committee to meet the next day and look at three bills. This is one bill, and I have complete confidence in the chairman, Mr Ian Berry, and am confident that his committee will be able to engage with the bill, have a look at the bill—

Mr Berry: We are working.

Mr BLEIJIE: He says that he is already working on the bill. I congratulate the member for Ipswich on that. It is great to see that the chairman of the Legal Affairs Committee is already onto the bill, looking at all of the details, as the committee should.

I am really surprised that the opposition would now actually oppose a bill going to a committee. We seem to not be able to win with this opposition. If we do not refer to a committee and pass bills through the House they complain about the process of not referring to a committee. Then they offer the opportunity for bills to be referred to a committee, even for a day. Then the government comes in here in good faith and says, 'Here is the bill. We are referring it to a committee for a day.' The opposition just cannot be satisfied. Nothing can satisfy the opposition leader. Nothing can satisfy the Labor Party.

And then they asked why we are doing this at 10.30 at night. Well, I would have done it a lot earlier had the opposition leader not divided on every clause of the previous bill. They were wasting that time. I would have moved this motion two or three hours ago, but I wanted to make sure parliamentarians had the appropriate time to finish debate on the industrial relations bill. The reason we did not do it earlier is that they divided on clause 1 of a 130-clause bill.

Mr Stevens: For no purpose.

Mr BLEIJIE: For no purpose. I take the interjection of the Leader of the House. The opposition leader cannot now say, 'It is getting late. It is past my bedtime. I have had to send my 22 staff members home for the night.' If the opposition cannot be effective at 10.30 at night, how can they be effective at 10 o'clock in the morning? What is the use of them even being there? If they cannot be an effective opposition 24/7, why are they even here? Are they on the old Dolly Parton scheme, working nine to five? With this opposition it is probably more like 10 till two in terms of—

Mr Stevens: Ten til' five past 10.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take that interjection from the Leader of the House. They are so lazy. Collectively, the opposition leader and the opposition members in this place are so lazy. They debate the fact that they do not want to have a debate. They debate the fact that we are sending this bill off to a committee. They just debate. I enjoy debate. Like anyone in this place I enjoy a good debate. It is often good to have someone to combat and debate with, but we cannot because we have the best resourced but laziest opposition in this country.

Mr Stevens: In history.

Mr BLEIJIE: In the history of this state and in history. When the likes of the member for South Brisbane get elected, nothing changes. She was a good mate of Anna Bligh. Factional warlords got her the job.

Ms Trad interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: The member for South Brisbane will want to hear this. The member for South Brisbane is a very good personal friend of Anna Bligh, the former Premier. She probably got her the job. There was probably no preselection—just waltzed straight in to the job as member for South Brisbane. Following in the footsteps of her great mentor, Anna Bligh, who would be one of the worst—

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the Leader of the House in relation to the member for South Brisbane. She is probably the most disliked member of those opposite—

Mr Stevens: In the Labor Party!

Mr BLEIJIE: Amongst her own Labor Party! They say many things, but what we say tonight is that we would have done it earlier. I would have—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! The Attorney-General will return to the motion.

Mr BLEIJIE: I would have done it earlier, had the Labor Party not divided and wasted every available opportunity in the past three hours.

As I said, the Leader of the Opposition is an absolute hypocrite. She came into this place two or three weeks ago and said that they would have supported the urgency motion if the bills had gone to a committee. We now have a bill going off to the committee.

The fundamental element here—the biggest issue in this debate—is that the opposition leader and the Labor Party once and for all this week will have an opportunity to tell this House and to tell Queenslanders whether they are on the side of criminal gangs or Queenslanders. They have to stop flip-flopping on this issue. They will have an opportunity to stop flip-flopping on this issue. Every time one of them is interviewed on the ABC or by any of our media in Queensland they have a different position. Not only that, if the member for South Brisbane is interviewed on one day she gives one set of stories but on the second day on the same program she gives a second set of stories.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Attorney-General will return to the motion. It is the last time I will ask him.

Mr BLEIJIE: The motion before the House refers the bill to the Legal Affairs Committee for one day. The contents of the bill are so important for the future of Queensland, in ridding Queensland of criminal motorcycle gang members, that they are worthy of the debate tonight. It is worth explaining to honourable members why we are referring the bill to the committee for one day.

Ms Trad: One day.

Mr BLEIJIE: Yes, one day. One day was accepted by the Leader of the Opposition three weeks ago.

Ms Trad: Half a day!

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the member for South Brisbane. The motion is that the bill be referred to the committee tomorrow and that they report by 10 o'clock on Thursday. The member for South Brisbane says, 'That is a half day.' It is over 24 hours. When I went to school there were 24 hours in a day. Of course, half a day is not 24 hours; it is 12 hours. If the honourable member for South Brisbane thinks, in her education—wherever she was educated—that over a day is somehow 12 hours, I question the member's ability to perform her functions in this place. I question the member's ability to perform her functions in this place if she cannot get the simple calculations right.

It is completely appropriate. I have absolute confidence in the members of the Legal Affairs Committee, which is made up of experienced members of this House. I have every confidence that they will be able to look at this legislation and assist in combating the issues of criminal motorcycle gang members in this state.

Some 99 per cent of these law reforms that this bill covers are new. They are the second tranche of attacking criminal motorcycle gang members in this state. As the Premier and members of this side of the House have gone around Queensland and talked to Queenslanders about the impact of these laws and the effect they are having on criminal motorcycle gang members—one only has to look at motorcycle gang members to see what effect—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order, members! The Attorney has the call.

Mr BLEIJIE: We only have to look at what the criminal motorcycle gang members are doing through their lawyers with their cashed up resources, as we all know.

Mr Stevens: Does Damien work for them?

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the Leader of the House. Perhaps there may be other conflicts of interest the member for South Brisbane will have to disclose. We are waiting for an explanation, but we have not had it from the member for South Brisbane today.

Ms TRAD: I rise to a point of order.

Mr BLEIJIE: Here is the explanation.

Ms TRAD: I find the remarks personally offensive and I ask for them to be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member has taken offence and asked that the—

Mr BLEIJIE: Withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:—Attorney would withdraw. I also remind the Attorney of the motion before the House.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. We are referring this bill to a committee. As I have said, I have complete confidence in the members of the committee, which is made up of all sides of parliament. I note that during the last debate the opposition leader and the Independent member for Nicklin raised the fact as to how the committee would go with a day. I am hoping as a sign of good faith the government is showing that we will send the bill off for at least a day so that committee members can get their teeth into it. Not only that, we have the most over-resourced opposition in the world. Its members can get their teeth into it tonight I suspect, have a good read of the legislation and talk to their stakeholders and people tomorrow about the legislation. So we say it is as simple as this: the Queensland opposition, the Labor Party in this state, has to work out which side it is on—criminal gangs or Queenslanders. Do members know what? The Liberal-National government will always choose the side of Queenslanders.