




Speech By  
**Shane Knuth**

**MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE**

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**MOTION: DISSENT FROM DEPUTY SPEAKER'S RULING**

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (12.25 pm): I support the dissent motion moved by the member for Condamine. I believe this motion has been moved because we need to uphold the integrity of the parliament. Earlier the member for Mermaid Waters pointed out that there must be respect for the chair and that we do not question the chair. However, here we have the member for Condamine challenging the chair over a decision and, as we can see from *Hansard*, he had every right to do so. However, straight afterwards the Treasurer moved a motion and also challenged the chair's decision. That motion stated—

That the member for Condamine be suspended from the services of the House for seven days.

But only—

**Madam SPEAKER:** Take your seat.

**Mr STEVENS:** I rise to a point of order. The member for Dalrymple has moved again to an issue that is not being discussed or debated in this dissent motion. That is another issue that was a follow-on issue from this particular motion. I ask him to stay relevant to this particular motion.

**Madam SPEAKER:** The member for Dalrymple is to address the specific motion that is before the House and not stray beyond the specific issue that is being addressed by the House.

**Mr KNUTH:** Just repeating the words of the member for Mermaid Beach, it is about a reflection on the chair. However, at the same time the Treasurer also had the opportunity. After the Deputy Speaker had ruled that the member for Condamine would leave the chamber for one hour, the Treasurer then—

**Madam SPEAKER:** Member for Dalrymple, that is not the motion that is before the House. You are addressing another issue. I ask you to address the specific issue of dissent from a specific ruling and not another issue.

**Mr KNUTH:** I do not condemn the Attorney-General in the position that he took when he said—

While we are on incompetence when we are talking about the member for Condamine and the member for Gaven ...

I do not necessarily blame him for that because of the culture that is being passed down through the government and its leadership to its members. This is the direction that the integrity of the parliament is heading in. It concerns me that we saw a dissent motion moved by the member for Condamine expressing his feelings and the Treasurer then displayed an act whereby he would become judge and jury and the LNP would become—

**Mr STEVENS:** I rise to a point of order. The member for Dalrymple is talking about another issue completely which came about as a result of this point of order.

**Mr Hopper** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order! Members, this is a motion about a specific issue: moving dissent upon a specific matter of order. I ask the member to address that and I ask other members to cease their interjections.

**Mr KNUTH:** We must uphold the integrity of the Queensland parliament because parliament is about representation and scrutinising legislation. At the same time, it is also about members having an opportunity to bring issues before this parliament. The member for Mermaid Beach spoke for 10 minutes about how the member for Condamine cannot show disrespect for the chair—and I totally agree with that—but it is very important that we bring the issues of the electorates and the people to this parliament. It is of great concern when a motion is moved and then the government becomes the judge and jury and we do not have the opportunity for—

**Madam SPEAKER:** Member for Dalrymple, please take your seat. I am warning you. I have given you ample opportunity to state the issue of dissent. I remind the House that what subsequently happened is not the issue of this dissent motion. I also remind the member that what subsequently happened with respect to the motion to remove the member for Condamine was actually as a result of a ruling of the Deputy Speaker. It was as a result of the member being named. These matters occurred subsequently and are not the matter of the dissent motion, but they were in fact as a result of the ruling of the chair. I ask the member to stick to this specific issue.

**Mr KNUTH:** Yes, Madam Speaker. The member for Condamine obviously has every right to bring issues before the parliament. He also had every right to challenge the minister on that night on the grounds that he was defending himself in taking a stand because he believed that the policy that was being debated that night, that the community benefit fund was going to be removed—

**Madam SPEAKER:** Member, I will sit you down if you do not stick to the motion your own colleague has moved.

**Mr KNUTH:** I wholeheartedly support the member for Condamine, and I believe that this is an opportunity for us to bring this before the House. I believe that this is a very important issue, and I believe that we need to maintain the integrity of the parliament through and through. We need to also respect the decision of the Speaker. Likewise, government members also need to respect decisions from the Speaker. I wanted to ensure that the government acknowledged that it is important to respect the ruling of the Speaker at the last parliamentary sitting.