



Speech By
Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

**TRANSPORT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT REGULATION (NO. 1):
DISALLOWANCE MOTION**

Mr MINNIKIN (Chatsworth—LNP) (8.03 pm): The last time I checked the history books, the Berlin wall came down in 1989. I would like to start off by talking about a great freedom that we on this side of the chamber do not take for granted. It is that great liberal freedom, the notion of freedom—not the nanny state, but that notion of freedom. Rather than wasting time in this hallowed chamber tonight talking about this pitiful disallowance motion, I have some great advice for those six souls opposite. Why do you not come in here and do what you should have done 18 months ago? Why do you not use this opportunity, rather than moving this disallowance motion, to get up and do what you should have done not just for this chamber but also for the people of Queensland? One of you should simply stand up at that lectern and say, ‘We apologise.’

Ms TRAD: I rise to a point of order. Mr Deputy Speaker, can you ask the member to refer to you as opposed to us in the debate? He continually refers to ‘you’. He is directly debating us as opposed to going through you.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! I have missed that. The member knows to address things through the chair. I call the member.

Mr MINNIKIN: Through the chair, I ask for members of the ALP to apologise to the people of Queensland for wasting our time tonight. Let me make a couple of facts. We do not make policy on the run, but we will make decisions when those decisions are in the best interests of one of the four pillars of the economy, that is, tourism. At the end of day you do not need to be an Einstein academic to actually conduct some research, which members opposite fail to do day in, day out. They are overresourced and overstaffed, but they do not do their basic homework. Let’s move on to a segway point. Segways are currently used in just a couple of places. Some of them might be known to those members opposite. They include luminary states such as Israel, Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden not to mention that small little colony called the United States of America, within which no fewer than 22 states have successfully operated segways for many years.

At the end of the day this government has taken a safety-first approach to the introduction of segways. Anyone who comes from the real world would know that if a portable mobility device, whether it be a motorised scooter or what-not, is operated in an irresponsible way—and I speak of any equipment, whether it be a skateboard skating onto the politburo on Peel Street across the creek or whether they are on a segway—if they do not take personal responsibility, there may be consequences. We all know that.

I pose a question to members right now. Do we want to live in a state for the next 20 years that operates as we did for the last 20 years? I do not think so. At about 20 past 7 on 26 March I was very privileged, along with everyone on this side of the chamber—and might I add, most of that side of the chamber—to actually represent a seat as an LNP member. Why do we have members in the numbers that we have? It is simply because of this. Eighteen months ago the good people of Queensland from

Coolangatta to Cooktown, with seven exceptions and a couple of exceptions on the crossbenches—and I notice again that they are not here tonight—elected an absolute sea of blue, and why is that? They want us to come in here and exercise due diligence, common sense and get on—

Mr Cox: Make decisions.

Mr MINNIKIN:—and make decisions—I take the interjection—and get on and govern not for me, not for the member for Thuringowa, but for every single Queenslander including the kids coming through. They are the same kids who are going to have to pay economically and clean up the scraps and the economic mess that these seven soulless souls and their kindred comrades in arms before them have left us.

The bottom line is this: the minister, the Premier and cabinet comprise men and woman who get on with the job of leading this great state. They have taken on a herculean task since we came to office. We could name them all from the Premier, the DP, the Treasurer, to the whole ministry. Each and every single one of them has gotten on with the job of making decisions, and this is no different.

We have the member for South Brisbane being pious and sanctimonious about the fact that segways have been implemented too quickly; the decision was made too rashly. I absolutely reject that. We do get full, frank and fearless advice from members of the Public Service. Being an assistant minister, I am very privileged to receive that full and frank advice. Unlike those opposite, we will listen to it and we will digest it. Unlike those opposite, we will do something a little bit different that has not been displayed here for the last 20 years. We will digest it and make a decision.

In the case of segways, many tourism operators are just itching to get on board and use these, and some of them have taken them up already. I will again make the point that it comes back to personal responsibility. If someone wants to use them, let them get on and use them. If it can make a dollar for a tourism operator, whether it be at Coolangatta or at Palm Cove, good for them. If the implementation of this policy plays a very small role in making sure that this great state continues to get back on its economic horse, we will absolutely support it every stage of the way.

To those opposite, they can come in here with their disallowance motions and their silly divides and they can continue to waste our time, but those on this side of the chamber will take this very privileged opportunity each and every time to do the best thing—not by themselves, but for the people that they serve in their electorates and the greater good of Queensland. To the minister and the Premier, I say to them ‘good on you’ for having the gumption to show what has sadly been lacking in this state for the better part of two decades, and that is the essence of true leadership.