




Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**

**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 19 March 2014

**CRIME AND MISCONDUCT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL:  
REPORTING DATE MOTION**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (3.48 pm): The opposition will be opposing this urgency motion because, once again, a bill is being referred to a committee for a period of around one month. What we have heard today put forward by this Attorney-General in relation to the changes to the CMC is just over one month to examine the bill when most other bills are referred to a committee for a longer period of time. We need experts to look at this bill in detail. The question for Queenslanders today is: do you trust this Attorney-General? Let me answer that question. No, they do not, because everything this Attorney-General touches turns into an unmitigated disaster.

**Mr STEVENS:** I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition has deliberately misled the House. I will be writing to Madam Speaker to put this matter before her regarding the correct timing, which is clearly from 19 March to 30 April.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Leader of the House. Could you resume your seat please? I call the Leader of the Opposition.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We have just over one month to examine this bill in detail. I will correct the record: just over one month.

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** You said it so quickly. You will not listen! Mr Deputy Speaker, we have just over one month and I imagine that the Easter school holidays are during this period as well. Just one month! They just want to rush through these major changes, once again abusing the committee system that has been set up in this House.

But should we be surprised by this urgency motion today? Absolutely not. Of course we are not! We understand exactly what this government wants to do: they want to nobble the CMC. They want to weaken the CMC—

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I rise to a point of order.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Order! Leader of the Opposition, could you resume your seat, please. Attorney-General what is your point of order?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, my point of order is that the opposition leader is debating the bill which we have just introduced to the House and is not debating the time line of 30 April 2014.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Leader of the Opposition, the motion relates to the reporting date for the committee in their review of the bill. I would ask that you refer strictly to that motion in your comments today.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker. Once again we are seeing this government rush through perhaps the most substantial changes to the Crime and Misconduct Commission that the state has ever seen here in Queensland. This is something that cannot be rushed. This is something that needs due consideration. There are drastic changes contained in this bill, and this is a bill not one or two pages, or five or six pages, or 20 or 30 pages. No, this bill is over 170 pages of complex law and complex changes to the CMC!

We know the Liberal National Party has never liked the CMC in this state. We know the matters that have gone to the CMC over the recent two years. I am not going to go into those details today.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Leader of the Opposition, could you keep your comments to the motion, please.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I will stick to the urgency matter before the House. We need due consideration. What does that mean? It means time so that different people and organisations such as the Law Society and the Bar Association can come along to have their say and put forward their points of view, and perhaps we can canvass with the broader community what they think about the proposals put forward by this Attorney-General.

This government does not like to use the committee system to give due consideration to examination of bills in this House. Just over one month to consider some of the most complex changes that we have ever seen in this state is not enough consideration. There is time here, and they have been sitting on these reports for a number of months now. If the government want to get this right, they need to give the committee due time to process it.

I would also like to know if the PCMC has been consulted in relation to these particular bills and the proposals that are going forward. The Attorney-General has just said that there are going to be changes which mean that there is not going to be bipartisan support for the appointment of commissioners. He said that in his speech very clearly—

**Mr STEVENS:** I rise to a point of order.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Leader of the Opposition, could you resume your seat, please. The Leader of the House has the call.

**Mr STEVENS:** The Leader of the Opposition is deliberately debating the motion currently without—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Leader of the House, please resume your seat. I was just about to mention to the Leader of the Opposition: could you please restrict your comments to the motion before the House relating to the time frame for the reporting of the committee.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Sure, Mr Deputy Speaker. Just over one month is not enough time to consider this legislation. It is not enough time, and the opposition will be opposing this urgency motion. I urge other members of this House to give due consideration to this fact as well. You cannot make a comprehensive overhaul of the public independent crime watchdog without giving it due consideration.

We knew something was up this morning when the Attorney-General released his plans to the *Courier-Mail*, as he likes to do, stating that there was going to be this massive overhaul in just over one month. We need to know exactly how many times the committee will be meeting. We need to get a process in place, because there is not enough time for Queenslanders right across the state to give this matter due consideration.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the only question that Queenslanders need to ask themselves is do they trust this incompetent Attorney-General who rushes bills through the House and who will not let the committee have enough time to decide? That is the sole question that Queenslanders have to ask. Mr Deputy Speaker, I can answer that question and that answer is clearly: no, they do not.

Today we will be opposing this bill lock, stock and barrel going to the committee system as a matter of urgency. We will be opposing the motion because you are not giving enough time to Queenslanders and this House. You are treating this place, this House, like your own personal plaything—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!! Leader of the Opposition, I have asked you twice to keep your comments to the motion—

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!—and continue to be relevant.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The Premier said he was going to listen, and if they were going to listen to what the Premier said they would give Queenslanders time to consult about these important changes.

We will be opposing the urgency. There is no need whatsoever for this urgency. You cannot trust anything this government does. They have a secret hidden agenda, and we know what it is: it is to weaken the CMC in this state! You have had form on it over the years. You cannot wait to do it and we are going to oppose the urgency motion!