



Speech By  
**Robbie Katter**


**MEMBER FOR MOUNT ISA**

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Record of Proceedings, 27 August 2014

## **ELECTORAL AMENDMENT REGULATION (NO. 1)**

### **Disallowance of Statutory Instrument**

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (8.13 pm): I rise in support of the disallowance motion moved by the member for Nicklin. I wish to pick up on a couple of comments made in the last speech. The key words that I kept hearing were 'major parties'. I do not know if anyone has noticed the pendulum swinging at the last few elections, federal and state, or that the swing has become very violent as there is deep dissatisfaction with the major political parties. We could spend all day debating why that happens, but there is major dissatisfaction. The Liberal Party started small and the National Party started small. Everyone starts small. However, with this fund we are widening the gap and lessening the opportunity for anyone else to break into the market by increasing the advantage to the major parties so that they can dominate that space. No-one has the right to dominate that space.

If you keep creating and increasing advantage, you are quarantining that space from other people. Money can affect elections. The big guys think they have the mortgage on good ideas. I will admit that the last two governments brought some good legislation into the parliament and we have voted for a lot of it. However, that does not mean that it can think for a minute that it has the mortgage on good policy and good ideas. We have introduced some excellent things into the parliament. If people had the freedom to vote how they wanted, I am sure that a lot of them would have voted for things such as the fair milk mark. We will be introducing another bill that has come from LNP policy. It was generated from the government's own policy and we are going to bring it back to the House.

There are a lot of ways in which we can be effective in this House. It is not right for a member to stand here and say that we are ineffective and that we play no role in policy development. The whole idea of policy development is outcomes in this House. We have generated outcomes here. I believe we have had some effect on the outcomes. It is pretty arrogant to say that we have no effect and that we play no role. It is not right to say, 'We need the advantage increased, so you stay where you are but we'll have a greater advantage to develop our policy.' The fact is that a lot of this does not have to go to policy development at all. It is not acquitted for. It can go into buying election ads and maintaining your place and increasing your space in the market, and I think that is crude. I did not like the whole act from the start. As we said, it was done on the basis that it was the same as the New South Wales model, but we proved that it was not.

In essence, the government is saying, 'Small guys don't have the ability. We just want the big guys to get this, because we have the mortgage on good policy and good ideas, so just leave it up to us. You guys don't have any good ideas, so you just stay where you are'. I cannot help but think of an analogy with sport. I grew up in the small town of Charters Towers. Often we would travel to Brisbane with the footy team or the cricket team. A lot of the time we would lose because we did not have the depth of players, but every now and again we would win because, pound for pound, we had talent. We had good players amongst us. On our day, we could match it. It is the same with minor parties and Independents. We have good ideas, we have good contributions to make and we can play a role in here.

I commend the government for coming up with some good ideas and I am happy to support them. However, it should not for a second think that it has the mortgage on that and it should have all the funds to produce policy so that people only have the choice of voting for its policies and ideas. I think that is terribly arrogant and it would be the sign of a sick system. I think a wonderful part of our parliament is the Independents and the minor parties. There should be more of it and the public is demanding more of it, which is why at every election we see violent swings away from the major parties. What we have heard tonight is the expression of a terribly arrogant attitude and I am pretty insulted by some of the things that have been said, although some fine contributions have been made by members from this part of the parliament. This was a very crude implementation of funds and it will be used by whoever wants to bolster their place in the marketplace. I say good on the member for Nicklin for introducing this motion. I will be supporting it.