




Speech By
Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

Record of Proceedings, 22 May 2014

MOTION: AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (11.22 am): I oppose this motion. When we look at this motion and ask ourselves what it is about, we find it is supposedly about time saving. If we have a good look at it and there is no time saving, the question has to be asked: why was the motion moved in the first place? It is not about efficiency. It is not about time saving. The extra work that the Clerk will do, and likewise the crossbenches, means that there will be no time saving at all. It is more a waste of time. We have to weigh up what on earth is going on and why they are doing it. They have introduced legislation into the House to reduce minor parties' electoral return funding.

As the member for Condamine just said, in the beginning the KAP had three members and in the last hours of the end of parliament they moved legislation in the House to take away that funding. Oppositions are supposed to be there to hold governments to account. That is the proper process of government, and that is the reason every member of parliament is elected in Queensland. The hierarchy of the LNP has been receiving a lot of feedback from government backbenchers that there is a tidal wave coming and we are not doing very well in our electorates.

Mr STEVENS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Nowhere in my motion did I mention tidal waves or any matter—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Are you raising relevance?

Mr STEVENS: Relevance. Please keep the member relevant to the motion.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Dalrymple, I ask you to stay relevant to the motion.

Mr KNUTH: This is a vendetta against the minor parties. The motion states—

(4) Members of minor parties, recognised parties or Independents must sign a tally sheet provided by the Clerk indicating whether they are voting for the "Ayes" or "Noes".

(5) The Government Whip, Opposition Whip and Clerk will report the number of "Ayes" or "Noes". The report must only relate to votes cast by members present in the Chamber and every member present must vote. The votes will be reported in the following order:

- (i) The Speaker asks the Government Whip, to report the government party's votes;
- (ii) The Speaker asks the Opposition Whip, to report the official opposition party's vote.

However, this is something different—

(iii) The Speaker asks the Clerk, to report the votes of other members that have reported to the Clerk in accordance with (3) or (4) above. The Clerk will report the votes by party or electorate.

The whole issue is that the government is going down. The government is going down, down, down. 'Legislate against the opposition. Don't worry, backbenchers, we will look after you. We will find whatever means and ways possible to legislate any opposition out of existence,' but the people of Queensland are not fools. There is a tidal wave coming.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Dalrymple, I have asked you to return to the motion and you used almost the exact same wording after I had asked you to return to it. I ask you to return to the motion and remain relevant to it.

Mr KNUTH: I oppose this motion. It is a bad motion. It is a very dictatorial motion. It is not what the institution of parliament should be about.