



Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 15 July 2015

**STATE DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS ORGANISATION AND OTHER
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

Motion: Declared Urgent; Allocation of Time Limit Order

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (5.51 pm): I have a little experience in urgency motions before the House. I recall that we passed the criminal gang law reforms through the House after an urgency motion. Before all of the new members interject, they should know that the Labor Party actually voted for that urgency motion and voted for those bills that night. Before they all interject and say how terrible it was, they should check the voting record because the Labor Party actually supported the criminal gang laws in Queensland. An urgency motion was moved at the beginning of the week and the bills were passed before the end of that week.

Many members on this side of the House have been in parliament a lot longer than I have. I have been here for six years. We have seen many urgency motions, most notably under the regime of Anna Bligh, particularly with the green schemes and the agriculture sector, where they were pandering to the Greens. You only have to search *Hansard* very quickly to find debate and dissension from Labor members about urgency motions in the past three years. In one debate they were crying out loud that it was against democracy, that it was antidemocratic. 'How dare you come in here and move an urgency motion to pass legislation!' They also used to guillotine debate. Andrew Fraser was the biggest for guillotining debate. I remember that in fact he guillotined the asset sales debate.

Today the honourable member for Hinchinbrook has, in a very thorough way, pointed out the elements of the legislation and highlighted what is at stake here. I point out to the honourable minister in terms of the urgency motion that I am advised by the honourable member for Hinchinbrook that the legislation he introduced was to clarify that the Land Court actually did not have jurisdiction for that particular matter. The Land Court never had jurisdiction for that matter, and the legislation clarified that the Land Court did not have jurisdiction. Now the minister says today that this bill takes things back to the position as it was. You cannot give a court jurisdiction over something it does not have jurisdiction for. And you cannot send matters back there when the legislation says it does not have jurisdiction over them.

Ms Trad interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the Deputy Premier. I am not sure—it is more likely than not—whether the Deputy Premier had a little something to do with a letter of 5 February that Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk signed to the Independent member for Nicklin. I am sure the Deputy Premier had a little something to do with that letter, signed off by the Premier. The letter clearly stated how much they were against urgency motions and that if there were to be urgency motions then consultation would occur with the crossbenchers. Mr Speaker, I am not sure whether consultation took place with you as the member for Nicklin, but there are other crossbenchers. Was appropriate consultation undertaken

with the crossbench? I am not getting any indication from the minister. I suspect that is a half no from the minister. I have given him 30 seconds to confirm or deny and he has not done it, so I will take it as a denial. That letter from the Premier was the basis on which Labor formed government in Queensland after the 31 January election. That letter from the Premier set out how opposed Labor is to urgency motions on principle and that an urgency motion would be moved in only the most extreme situation. I do not think we are dealing with the most extreme situation here.

Let me deal with the hypocrisy of the matter. As I said, there are a lot of new Labor members in this place. I raise this issue because those members, including the minister, the member for Stafford, and the Attorney-General, had a lot to say about when Campbell Newman and the LNP government moved urgency motions. We fought our case for the urgency motions and those opposite opposed them all the time because it was 'antidemocratic'. 'How dare you come in here!' I recall that they used really strong language: 'arrogance', 'hubris'. I remember all of those words. To use the same words to the Deputy Premier, how is this not arrogant? How is this not hubris? Why is it arrogance and hubris for the LNP to move an urgency motion but it is not arrogance and hubris for the Labor Party to move a similar motion?

An opposition member: Hypocrites.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. It is hypocritical. How can you have one rule for one side of parliament and one rule for the other side of parliament?

Mrs Frecklington: This is the Labor Party.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. It is the Labor Party. As I indicated, Anna Bligh and Andrew Fraser were some of the biggest users of not only urgency motions but also guillotine motions.

The other issue I have with respect to this urgency motion is that the minister has moved that this bill be passed by the end of the week. There is to be no committee deliberation. The other thing Labor Party members talk about a lot, now and over the previous three years in opposition, is the committee process: 'If bills do not go to committee, the public do not know what is going on. How can the public have a say?' I remember the Premier saying, 'How dare you deny the public the opportunity to have a say on this legislation?' I remember it. Now look at the behaviour from the Deputy Premier.

A government member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I called her the Deputy Premier. I am happy to call her 'member for South Brisbane'. That is fine. The reason she is acting the way she is is that she knows I am right.

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. She always does. She knows I am right. I note the silence from a lot of members who were not in parliament for the past three years and prior. They will not know the process in relation to urgency motions or how the committee system was set up—in a bipartisan way, I might add. The committee system was set up in a bipartisan way such that legislation could go off to committees—

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the Attorney-General with respect to bipartisanship. She was not in this parliament—she was in the federal parliament but she got voted out of office—when a bipartisan committee formed the new committee system. The idea of that new committee system—

Ms Trad interjected.

Mr Springborg interjected.

Mr Cripps interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: One moment, member for Kawana. Deputy Premier, Leader of the Opposition and member for Hinchinbrook: if you want to have a conversation I invite you to go outside. We are about to start the private members' motion debate. Actually, I ask the member for Kawana to adjourn this debate so we can commence the private member's motion debate.

Debate, on motion of Mr Bleijie, adjourned.

Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (7.35 pm), continuing: I refer members to my contribution before the House.