




Speech By
Linus Power
MEMBER FOR LOGAN

Record of Proceedings, 4 December 2015

**CONSTITUTION (FIXED TERM PARLIAMENT) AMENDMENT BILL;
CONSTITUTION (FIXED TERM PARLIAMENT) REFERENDUM BILL**

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (12.35 pm): I also acknowledge the team from Liaocheng and acknowledge the member for Stretton, who I know is very committed to extending relationships between this great state and the Chinese people. You are very welcome in this place and I hope you have a great experience.

I rise to support this legislation to introduce fixed four-year terms into the Queensland parliament, and I note the amendments circulated by the Attorney-General. It is not the first time that four-year terms have been spoken about in this parliament, although it is my first time to speak about four-year terms which so many others have considered before in this place. Across the country we have seen states move to four-year terms, and people have even expressed that the Commonwealth would function better with four-year terms. However, we know that the Commonwealth is restricted by the Constitution, but this would be a stepping stone to once again testing the proposition of whether four-year terms are better for developing government policy.

We know that business confidence and consumer confidence are very important to the growth of a modern democratic society. We need to build certain and concrete policies upon which businesses and individuals who want to start businesses can begin to build, construct and know with certainty the direction of the state. Four-year terms give a longer period in which to get that consistency. We saw already the destructive nature of some bills in this place where we saw those not following the government policy did not build consumer confidence, and we wish to do more to build consumer confidence and to build certainty for investment, especially international trade and investment. That is why I think four-year terms are a sensible constitutional evolution which would bring more stability to our government.

The member for Dalrymple has expressed some concerns. He posited if we had four-year terms how destructive the former Newman government would have been in its last year. It is very important that these concerns are aired. However, I have to say to the member for Dalrymple that if we based everything on trying to prevent the Newman government we would have no government whatsoever. We would just abolish this place in the hope that we would never again get the Newman government. I think we need to proceed with more confidence. I also remind the member for Dalrymple that I think the people of Queensland were pretty sensible. They made that change and they expressed their voice and views clearly. They are the ultimate accountability mechanism. I think we need more confidence. I hope that the LNP government of the last term was a one-off.

We have complex policies that we must address in this place. When I think of educational policies, the Advance Queensland agenda is one that will take many years to develop. Governments need to be committed and to focus on the long term. I see the Minister for Education following this debate keenly, because she knows that in education changes do not happen overnight. You must build steadily into the curriculum, especially when we are doing STEM education to further enhance that.

I also know in health that, if we put forward a program like the one we have done with the nursing numbers guarantee, we need to see the results of that working over time. A healthier Queensland will not come in a short period of time; instead it takes years of work and consistency and that is what this government aims to do.

I only rose to speak briefly. I wish to acknowledge the concerns of others. I know that governments that are focused on the good of Queensland will be able to achieve much more in the program they put forward as part of a four-year consistent and stable process. That is why I endorse the bill, as amended, to the House.