



Speech By  
**Mark Furner**

**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 3 June 2015

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND REHABILITATION (PROTECTING  
FIREFIGHTERS) AMENDMENT BILL**

**Mr FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (4.33 pm): As chair of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, I stand to oppose this motion. I stand to oppose the motion on this basis. Not only was the member for Beaudesert at the private meeting this morning where we discussed a number of factors, and the committee meets on a regular basis during sitting weeks; but we actually agreed—and I will not go to the length of saying that we were held at ransom but it was put to the committee to consider a private member's bill that was put forward by the member for Mansfield previously where at a previous meeting the committee had initially decided to put a stay on that particular bill only on the basis of consideration of looking at other possible amendments to that bill or even possibly looking at a subsequent bill or a similar bill related to that matter.

**Mr Rickuss:** You are talking about a private discussion.

**Mr FURNER:** I beg your pardon?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Through the chair please, member.

**Mr FURNER:** It was not a private discussion. It was recorded in the minutes and they are available on the public register. This morning in our meeting we decided to succumb to the wishes of those opposite and accept a schedule in respect of dealing with the private member's bill that has been put forward by the member for Mansfield.

In addition to that, we have government business and we dealt with that as well. On that basis, we have a government bill that has to be dealt with and considered by the committee. Therefore, we have two bills before the committee to deal with by the next sitting week or slightly after the next sitting week. So to suggest that the committee has all the time on earth to deal with this private member's bill that has been sprung on us today is a complete fallacy, Mr Speaker. I put it to you that, when these types of private member's bills are considered and tabled, more time needs to be considered in respect of the deliberations and also the consideration of unions like the United Firefighters Union, which I know quite well.

I know for a fact that there was a Commonwealth bill that was put through the Senate on this particular matter, and it might be opportunistic that the committee considers those sorts of measures as well rather than looking at a similar state bill on this particular matter. We on this side of the chamber have a strong connection with and belief in caring for the safety of our firefighters. That might not be the case on the other side. We know how much the United Firefighters Union campaigned against those opposite during the by-election in Redcliffe.

**Mr Dick:** And they demonised them for two days.

**Mr FURNER:** They called them actors. It is complete folly to come in here today and suggest that the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee has time to deal with another bill in respect of its workload. That is why I stand today to condemn this motion.