




Speech By
Peter Russo

MEMBER FOR SUNNYBANK

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ELECTORAL (REDISTRIBUTION COMMISSION) AND ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr RUSSO** (Sunnybank—ALP) (9.53 pm): I rise to make a contribution to this debate. I will be opposing the bill. This bill does not represent important steps that will improve accountability in Queensland's political arena, as the member for Mansfield would have us believe or would like us to believe. This bill seems to be a response to what Dr Paul Williams of Griffith University has stated in the *Courier-Mail* on aspects of electoral reform.

There have been suggestions made in this bill that the current commission has not fulfilled its role. The bill suggests that its role could be improved by increasing the membership of the commission from three to five members. However, the member for Mansfield has not provided, or has failed to point out, what is wrong with the current commission or its workings. Is the member for Mansfield suggesting that the previous commission has been biased?

I would suggest that since this year's state election there has been a marked improvement in representation and governance in this parliament. It is not about more members but about the quality of representation. If members opposite feel they are unable to properly represent their electorates, perhaps they should try another profession. What the people of Queensland do not need is more politicians. They need better government, which this current Palaszczuk Labor government has delivered, is delivering and will continue to deliver.

This bill also incorrectly suggests that Queenslanders will have more equitable access to representation in parliament by legislating for the Redistribution Commission to have the capacity, at its discretion, to amend additional large district numbers, currently set at two per cent, up to four per cent. Attempts to change this legislation will not make the lives of voters any better.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Order! Members, there has already been a general warning about interjections that are not being taken and about disorderly conduct. It is getting late in the night. I must admit, my patience is wearing a bit. I have given quite a bit of latitude. I am not prepared to do that anymore. I issue a general warning.

Mr RUSSO: This is like going down memory lane. It is difficult to understand why those opposite us have introduced this legislation. It is just a grab at power.