




Speech By  
**Ray Stevens**

**MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH**

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Record of Proceedings, 27 March 2015

**ELECTORAL AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (11.25 am): Many times when we were on the other side of the House we listened to the ranting, wailing and curdling cries from the then Manager of Opposition Business about matters being rushed through before parliamentary committees had an opportunity to debate these matters fully and before full consultation had taken place with different groups. In this brand-new, different parliament which the Premier has promised in terms of accountability and openness, straightaway we have the Attorney-General rushing this legislation through before the next sitting of parliament, just a fraction over four weeks away.

The bottom line is that this is consistent with a government that has no intention of changing any of the ways it needs to push its legislation through for political purposes. That is what this legislation is about. Let us be very clear: it is all about pushing its political agenda. I look forward to reading the legislation. Obviously I have not seen the legislation at this point in time, but I am sure that union donations, as per usual, will not be included in this legislation. The government is pushing its political agenda straightaway.

We object to this legislation being rushed through before parliamentary committees have even had their reporting dates set by the CLA. The CLA has not met at this point in time to set reporting dates for these matters. As the Treasurer and other members would be aware, those dates are set and referred through the CLA. Yet the minister, desperate for this political legislation to be put in place for their own political agenda, is making sure this is put before the House by the next sitting. The parliamentary committee will have to rush it through without adequate consideration. I doubt if the unions will be consulted on this matter. I doubt if other bodies such as the legal fraternity will be consulted on this issue. By the way, Mr Speaker, there is the little problem that Easter cannot be shifted for the benefit of the Labor Party so we have lost that period of time in between. This is classic, 'We really want to have a different parliament but we are not really genuine about that at all. We are going to push our political agenda straight through.' Premier, it is a great embarrassment to you that this behaviour is taking place under your watch with your brand-new Attorney-General. It is absolutely flying in the face of the proper parliamentary positions on the matter.