




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

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 STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (5.22 pm): The member for Hinchinbrook has spoken very clearly about the background and the reasons as he knows the full content and the outcomes of what the minister is seeking. I do understand the newness of this particular minister into the House in terms of the processes this House certainly has tried to abide by in delivering good outcomes for the legislation of this parliament.

On numerous occasions, the words 'hubris' and 'arrogance' were mentioned by those members opposite when they sat on this side of the House, and that particularly occurred when the last government was in place. Quite clearly, the motion that the minister has put forward represents great arrogance and hubris in that it is a very quick-fire, mates decision to pre-empt a matter, and the reasoning behind the urgency of this bill has not even been properly espoused. If a matter has resulted out of the Supreme Court decision, it should go back to the relevant committee.

Time and time again in the last parliament, those members opposite—and I think there were nine of them at the time, as I recall—said that due processes should be followed. However, that has been quite clearly abandoned under their newfound arrogance and hubris as they look after their green mates and get this through in a hurry without going through the proper political processes that they so readily recommended we should go through. They have not pointed out one reason as to why this should not go through the normal processes that this House has endorsed as being the proper processes for consideration of any changes.

There are many stakeholders who will be affected by the decisions that the minister proposes to rush through this House I believe on Friday. There is no valid reason to support the urgency of this motion—none whatsoever. There is no valid reason why the minister should, on his training wheels, try to push this thing through in the dead of night, if you like, without going through the proper process of referring this to the committees that are involved in this matter. There is no valid reason why he should be pursuing the political interests of one particular section of his community to endorse his popularity in this particular area.

I will not debate the bill, but the government is talking about getting jobs and if this affects jobs in Queensland then it should be properly investigated by the relevant committees. They should be able to weigh up and make recommendations to this parliament. There is no valid reason for this. The minister has not espoused one particular valid point as to why in budget week we should have this bill coming forward urgently, other than absolute political bias in the matter, and that is not enough to circumvent the proper political processes of this parliament. We will be opposing this motion.