




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

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ELECTORAL AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (8.13 pm): I rise to speak to the Electoral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015. I was in this House when legislation was introduced by the Newman government which cut electoral funding for the Independents and minor parties and at the same time raised the donation declaration limit to \$12,400. We were quite disappointed with the massive funding cuts for Independents and minor parties while at the same time there were increases to the major parties, particularly the LNP.

When funding is delivered to any political party, we want to see that funding used wisely. In my electorate of Dalrymple, I saw a massive LNP campaign with six or seven brochures, billboards and TV advertising. Everywhere you looked you saw the LNP, but they had nothing to offer. They advertised in the Brisbane *Courier-Mail*, the *Cairns Post* and the *Tablelands Advertiser* that chaos would ensue if they were not re-elected, but when it comes to delivering on ethanol, looking after the sugar industry and the important issues, there was nothing about that because they deliver nothing. They were happy to spend that money to campaign against a small Independent to try and get rid of him so they could get a party hack into this parliament who would abide by their decisions and support their causes. This bill is about bringing balance back into this parliament.

I also support the removal of the voter ID laws. I did hand out how-to-vote cards, and I did see many people who forgot to bring their ID and some of them did not bother going back home to collect it. I do not know the exact figures, but I think there were one or two reports of multiple voting to the police out of millions of voters across Queensland. Aboriginal communities likewise do not have the opportunities that we do. Many have to travel vast distances or cast postal votes. I support this legislation to remove compulsory voter identification. We need to encourage Australians to vote by whatever means necessary because people are turned off by politics. We need to encourage them to vote and to express their concerns. If voters do not like a government, they can kick it out. I believe this is very important.

We want to see good governance. We want to see funding used wisely. We want to see governments go to elections and promote good reasons why they should govern, not attack small people like me or the minor parties. The LNP spent all their resources trying to get rid of the Independents and minor parties, but they did not show the electorate what they are going to do for them.

A government member: It did not work for them, did it?

Mr KNUTH: And of course it did not work for them. Instead of spending many millions of dollars trying to create 'chaos' amongst the voters, we want to see common-sense, delivery, outcomes and positivity. I believe that this Electoral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill is a step in the right direction. This is not about boosting one particular party so they can retain power, be there forever and ever and stomp on everybody—this is about sensibility. This bill is about 'If you want to win your seat, you've got to work hard'; it is not about spending massive amounts of money to spread propaganda.