




Speech By
Trevor Watts

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH

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 WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (5.26 pm): I rise to address the urgency motion and the manner in which this bill is being put forward. There are many people in my electorate who would like to know lots of things that go on in this place and they would like to be afforded the opportunity to be able to address those things through a proper and due process. This is a government that said it would be open and accountable. These are not the actions of an open and accountable government.

Ms TRAD interjected.

Mr WATTS: I will take the interjection from the member for South Brisbane about my electorate because there are many people in my electorate who would be concerned at the urgent manner in which we will be addressing this bill. They would be concerned about the sneaky and sleight-of-hand action that this government is using to try to pass legislation in this very busy budget week. The parliament has due processes to discuss things so that good legislation can come forward, evidence can be heard, legislation can be debated and the community can contribute. This process is clearly being rushed through because of pressure from certain groups. It is clearly payback for the vote of those groups at the election. The urgency of this is a complete shame on those who are abusing the position they have been given by the people of Queensland. They are abusing it in a sneaky and sleight-of-hand manner to try to pass something through—

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr WATTS: Say that again. Come on, I am happy to take your interjections. I am very happy to hear them, so please bring them forward because I think the people of Queensland would like to hear a debate on this. They would like to understand and they would like to make sure that this place operates correctly. That is what this government promised. This is not the first occasion that the government has not delivered on its commitments to be open and accountable. This is not the first time. I ask people to look back at the things that the Premier said. She said she would be open and accountable and she said she would do certain things with our committee structure, but here we find our committee structure being abused not for the first time by this government with a sneaky piece of legislation being slipped in during budget week hopefully under the cover of other debates that are going on out there in the community.

I think this government will be held to account by the people in the electorates that will be affected by this legislation. I urge the minister to make sure that this legislation goes through the due process. He should not join his colleagues in becoming a sneaky minister who is willing to change the processes of this parliament in order to slip things through. It is well and good that the member opposite points,

but he stood here in this place and he said exactly these same things. So who is it who has the two faces? He is sitting there on the other side now, completely hypocritically. Someone who criticised exactly this now stands up and bluntly says, 'No, no, no, it was okay for me to criticise when I was in opposition, but in government I want to be sneaky. I will join the ranks of those sneaky people. I will join the ranks of the people who don't want to be open and accountable. I will join the ranks of the Premier in being sneaky and abusing the committee process and in not being open and accountable with the people of Queensland.' That is why I will be opposing this motion, because it is not open and accountable for the people of Queensland. The minister himself has said exactly the same, yet here he is sitting in this place as a hypocrite, rushing things through, making sure the people of Queensland do not get to hear about them in the correct manner.