




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 13 September 2016

CONSTITUTION OF QUEENSLAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (5.25 pm), in reply: At the outset, I thank the opposition for their bipartisan support of the bill before the House. I thank all members. I know that a large number of government members contributed to the debate on the bill. I thank the CLA, which included Mr Speaker as the chair and members of the government, the opposition and the crossbench. Therefore, these amendments have support from right across the parliament. The bill that the House is considering will statutorily recognise the core matters of the parliamentary committee system in the Constitution of Queensland Act 2001 and, by so doing, as the CLA has generally described it, place a psychological impediment on future parliaments from altering these provision in the Constitution without just cause.

The reforms will provide more certainty about the continued existence of the parliament's powers to scrutinise government activity through the committee system. We do not have an upper house. We are a unicameral system. Therefore, entrenching the committee system in the Constitution is the right thing to do. I note that the member for Logan said he wanted to pass this on to his grandchildren. I think every single member of this House should be very pleased that tonight we are saying that the committee system will stay firmly entrenched in our Constitution from this day forward. In addition, we know how fundamental it is, with the appropriation bills, to have the estimates process in place, which will also be embedded in the Constitution.

With those few words, once again I thank all members who participated in this debate. Today is a good day for Queensland and we see that by the passing of this legislation. I commend the bill to the House.