




Speech By
Craig Crawford

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

Record of Proceedings, 31 August 2016

MOTION

Trade Unions

 **Mr CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (6.11 pm): I rise to support the amendment to the motion moved by the member for Ferny Grove. I must confess that I guess I am one of those pesky union people. I am quite proud to be a member of United Voice. I am quite proud to be somebody who has stood on the front line and taken it to government year after year to protect and argue for the rights of workers not only in Queensland but also in Victoria. I speak of public servants—our firefighters, our nurses, our teachers, our paramedics, and so on.

In 2013 we saw the Newman government come to power. We certainly saw what happened under the member for Kawana who introduced some of the most draconian and backward industrial relations laws this parliament has ever seen. We saw attacks on our public sector workers. We saw attacks on the people who are out there right now in our hospitals, out there right now in our fire trucks, out there right now in our ambulances and out there right now walking our streets—our police officers. The list goes on and on.

There is a very good reason those 42 members opposite are sitting on that side of the House. That is because of the way they treated the workers of Queensland in the three years that they ruled. In the three years that they ruled we saw the destruction that they created. I am proud to be a member of this government. I am proud to be a member of a government that actually listens to Queenslanders and listens to workers and actually has workers' interests at its core.

As we heard from the member for Ferny Grove, there was a reference group in relation to this matter. That reference group unanimously agreed with the recommendations—that is, both employee and employer groups. The reference group comprised the Australian Industry Group, the CCIQ, the LGAQ, the Bar Association of Queensland and the Queensland Law Society. This was not just unions making these recommendations but groups that I am sure the LNP consult from time to time. Perhaps they need to actually go and speak to these groups.

Thankfully, the report into the recent review of the IR Act recommended equal treatment for organisations—employer and employee organisations—in relation to this matter and that the burden on employee organisations beyond the requirements that apply to employer organisations be abolished. Those opposite should have checked with those organisations before they proposed this motion.

It is a bit like a broken record, is it not? Every sitting we come here we have a motion moved that attacks the unions and the backbench.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock! I cannot hear the member for Barron River.

Mr CRAWFORD: Their motions attack the backbench of the Labor Party. Let us get into them. Let us call them out. Maybe I should have worn a red tie today. I will wear my red tie tomorrow.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr CRAWFORD: Are you happy with that?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I would urge the member for Barron River to speak through the chair.

Mr CRAWFORD: I will read what the LGAQ said in relation to this reference group. The LGAQ stated—

This is a nonsense situation where organisations who employ finance officers who are chartered accountants and/or have tertiary qualifications in finance are required to attend training by people who are far less qualified than themselves and on matters routine to their occupation.

That related to a requirement for officers of unions who have financial management duties to undertake training. This is one small example of what we are dealing with here.

Our government is proud to represent the workers of Queenslanders. It is proud to represent the hardworking public sector workers and all workers. I am happy to stand with the backbench, with the frontbench and with the leadership to defend that.