




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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**FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (DOMESTIC SMOKE ALARMS)
AMENDMENT BILL; FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (SMOKE ALARMS)
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (5.50 pm): The Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services talks about motivation. He said that this is all political motivation and that is why this bill is in the House and that is why this motion was moved this morning. I will tell the minister what motivates me on this issue—the 11 Queenslanders who died at Slacks Creek. I will tell the minister what motivates me on this issue—the Golinski family and those three young children and their mother who died at Yandina on the Sunshine Coast. So do not come in here and tell me that I am politically motivated by this. I am motivated by young Queenslanders who died on the Sunshine Coast. I am motivated by two coronial investigations that said that your government has sat on its hands for 12 months and not dealt with this issue. That is what motivates me in this House—not the political grandstanding that the minister wants to do. The minister got up in here just now and said—

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Lockyer, you are warned under standing order 253A. Those interjections are not appropriate. The member for Kawana has the call. If you want to speak, I have already invited you to contribute in the appropriate way and that is to let the Speaker or the Temporary Speaker know you want to speak before the mover of the motion is called to close the debate.

Mr BLEIJIE: The minister also wants to know what our motivation is. I sat in the committee hearing this morning with Mr Golinski, the grandfather of those three young children, and he did not say this was a political motivation. He wants legislation in the House. He said that if the type of photoelectric smoke alarms that our bill deals with were used his three grandchildren might have survived.

The minister has come in here with his grandstanding and said that I am politically motivated by this; I am not. I am motivated to save young Queenslanders' lives. I am motivated to make sure people have smoke alarms in their homes—the same smoke alarms that could have saved 11 people's lives at Slacks Creek. This is not a political issue. What is political is the minister coming in here yesterday and moving his own piece of legislation and not just looking at our piece of legislation.

The minister goes on with this furphy because he said, 'It's good that we've got legislation in the committee as well because then the committee can have a look at all the issues.' If that is the case, then the 89 members of this House should introduce their own legislation because I guarantee there would be 89 different pieces of legislation because we would all know how to deal with the issues of photoelectric smoke alarms. The committee would have 89 different recommendations because all of us in this House would come up with different ways to address this issue of photoelectric smoke alarms in this state. The minister then said that we should wait for the Senate inquiry. If that is the case, then why did he introduce his own bill yesterday? If he was going to draft legislation—

Mr Byrne interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection—before time. Not knowing what the Senate is going to say, the minister has legislation drafted with a policy position that he now refers off to the committee, but now he says, 'Let's wait to see what the Senate committee says'—after he has already introduced the legislation. It is a furphy. We know why he introduced the legislation. It is because they have sat on their hands for 12 months. Only a few weeks ago, the Golinski coronial investigation was handed down and the coroner said, 'The recommendations that I made 12 months ago stand today. There is nothing different.' The coroner also said in the report, 'The only thing I would like to add is nothing has changed in 12 months, no action.'

What the coroner was saying is that the government has had 12 months to implement the coronial recommendations from the Slacks Creek fire and the government has not done that. And who was the minister? The member for Bundamba. When asked why she did not have legislation in this place, the member for Bundamba said, 'We should wait for the Senate inquiry.' What changed in the process? The LNP met with the stakeholders, the LNP consulted with the stakeholders and the LNP introduced legislation. I sat down with Louie, Christine, Mr Golinski and those volunteers at the Logan House Fire Support Network. I sat down with them with the opposition leader, Lawrence Springborg, and we said, 'Tell us about the issue. Tell us how we can assist.' Within 30 days of that meeting, we had legislation in this place dealing with that very safety issue.

So, again, what motivates me? Kids' safety and family safety. What motivates me, Minister? My three kids at home. After having the meeting with Mr Golinski and the Logan House Fire Support Network, I changed the smoke alarms in my house. I no longer have ionisation smoke alarms because I know the risks associated with them. That is what motivates me, Minister—not political grandstanding in this place, not coming in here like the Leader of the House is and moving a motion to expand my private member's bill out so the government can come in. The government does that under the guise that it is all so the committee can have a look at it and so it can go through a proper process. It is not because of that. We know why they do it—because we put the legislation in first but they cannot stand up and say, 'We will support the LNP's legislation.' That is the issue. They cannot just say, 'We think you should make some amendments.' If they did that, we would tell them to come to us with the amendments and I would consider them. We could get good legislation out of this place with a private member's bill that was amended if they want it amended. I would be happy to consider those amendments.

This notion that we are now continually getting into is concerning and it should be concerning for all people in this place. Lots of good private members' bills are being introduced and the government are just gazumping them with their own bill and putting their stamp on it, and the only difference is whether it says 'LNP', 'Labor' or 'Independent'.

A government member: That's not true.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. Some Labor member yelled out that it is not true. Let me refer them to the mental health bills that went through not long ago. I believe there were 400 pages in the Mental Health Bill and the only difference was five pages out of 400 pages. We then had the smoking bills, and the planning bills are currently being debated. There is a growing record of private members' bills—whether it be LNP, Independent, crossbenchers—being introduced into this place because the government do not have their own ideas. That is the issue. The government have no ideas. They are frozen at the wheel, and they have to rely on the opposition to come up with all the ideas. I have never seen a government that has become so frozen at the wheel that it has to rely on the opposition to come up with all the plans and all the ideas, and then it says, 'That's a great idea. Let's just rebadge it and put "Labor" on it.'

That is why we moved the motion that is on the *Notice Paper*—because we want to make sure that good legislation is debated in this place. If they want to amend the private member's bill that I introduced, let us do it. If the minister wants to talk about the committee meeting this morning and why we will not support this motion, I can tell him it is because Mr Golinski and Louie from the Logan House Fire Support Network said that the difference is the Labor Party's bill has a 10-year phase-in and ours has a three-year phase-in. How many lives can be saved if the private member's bill goes through this parliament? If this motion gets up, this will be delayed. There will be over seven years delay if this motion gets up tonight.

I encourage the Independents and the crossbenchers to look at this and oppose this motion of a cognate debate. We can save Queenslanders' lives. If we can get this legislation in and get photoelectric smoke alarms in people's lives, then we can prevent the issues of Slacks Creek and we can prevent the issues of the Golinski house fire at Yandina. We have the opportunity to save lives in a far greater speed than under the government's bill.

I would implore the crossbenchers and Independents in this place to not support this motion of a cognate debate. Let the LNP private member's bill go through as it ordinarily should. I introduced it months ago. The committee has had plenty of time. It was a great meeting this morning. It had support from the technical experts and the people from the Logan House Fire Support Network. It had the support there because the bill saves lives.

A government member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjections from those opposite—it is substantially different, it is substantially similar. As I said when I started my contribution, the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services thinks I am politically motivated in this. No, I am not. I am motivated by 11 people who lost their lives at Slacks Creek. I am motivated by the Golinski family and Mr Golinski, the grandfather of the three children who lost their lives at Yandina. No family should ever have to go through that.

The members opposite should hang their heads in shame if they are interjecting that this is politically motivated legislation. This legislation is designed to save lives. That is why the legislation is so important. That is why it is important that the motion regarding the cognate debate of the private member's bill and the government bill gets voted down, because we need the private member's bill to go through. I would be happy to sit down with the government. If they want to come to me and amend my legislation, I would be happy to sit down with them and do that so we can get to a situation where this legislation is passed in this House sooner rather than later. We cannot wait any longer for the legislation. That is why I implore the House and the crossbenchers to think seriously about this matter so we can fix the smoke alarms issue in this state. The committee dealt with this bill this morning. In terms of position, we can go forward as one in a bipartisan way. That is why I implore everyone to vote against the motion for a cognate debate so we can get on with the job and save Queenslanders' lives.