




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 10 May 2016

MOTION: CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (6.19 pm): I support the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition on the basis that what we have just heard from the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations is absolute rubbish. Let me give the facts of the situation on site at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. Yes, the ETU has taken protected action. Has the ETU taken protected action for the safety of people on the construction site? No. The ETU has taken protected action because there is a federal election on. The ETU has taken protected action because it does not want the ABCC reintroduced in Queensland. The ETU has not taken that action for safety reasons.

The construction of the hospital is nearly finished. Is it just a coincidence that the election gets called and there just happens to be industrial action? In her contribution the minister waved around what I suspect I am going to wave around. This is the order from the Fair Work Commission. The minister says that it is all protected action. The protected action is taken by the ETU. This order relates to the CFMEU. The reason it relates to the CFMEU is that the CFMEU is blockading and picketing the site. It is not allowing workers onto the construction site. That is the reason. The order says that construction workers have to get back to work.

Ms Grace: Table it.

Mr BLEIJIE: I will table it.

Tabled paper: Document, dated 6 May 2016, titled 'Order under section 418 of the Fair Work Act 2009' [\[652\]](#).

The workers cannot get back to work because the CFMEU has a picket line. Today, I was advised by a representative of Lend Lease that the CFMEU is at every entrance gate to the construction site.

What about a poor worker who wants to earn a decent living but has been forced by the union movement to go on strike, which I suspect they will not be paid for? He or she goes to work and is greeted by all of these CFMEU and ETU thugs. I would not go onto the construction site. I would turn around and go home. We know the ramifications when people turn up and say, 'No, I'm going to go through the picket line.' We know what happens to those people with these union thugs. Guess who is in the photos with all of these union thugs? Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk!

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you do not need a prop. You have your message through. You can table them if you wish. I ask you to get on with your contribution.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I table a print-out of a tweet by Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk. It states—

Talking to the crowd at Comm Cabinet at Burleigh today.

There is a photograph attached of the Premier standing in front of the ETU bus. I have another print-out of a tweet from the Premier which states—

Great to catch up with ETU members at Brothers Leagues Club in Cairns last night.

I table a copy of that photograph of the Premier speaking in front of an ETU bus with all of these—

An opposition member: Comrades.

Tabled paper: Bundle of photographs and Twitter screenshots, undated, showing the Premier and Minister for the Arts, Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, at various union rallies [\[653\]](#).

Mr BLEIJIE: The comrades. We know that the health minister is next to get to his feet. He has looked in the mirror that he practises in front of downstairs in his office, making sure that his nose is up while he is speaking for the people of Woodridge. We know that he will look up at the chandeliers. He is going to stand up here on behalf of the people of Woodridge and say that the construction of the hospital is ongoing and there is no issue. The reality is that the ETU has taken the action. In yesterday's *Sunshine Coast Daily* the CFMEU said, 'We're just here helping our mates make sure that people can't come on to this construction site.' I hear that there are a few people on the construction site. They were lucky they got there before the CFMEU members got out of bed. This morning, those workers got on the site before the big trucks rolled in and before the gaffer tape went up out the front.

The ABCC stopped this rot. If the ETU heavyweights have made anyone in Queensland believe that it is doing this because of the safety of workers on the site, then more fool them. The ETU is not doing it because of safety. It is doing what it always does: it is backing the Labor Party.

A few weeks ago the minister came into this parliament and said, 'This matter is nothing to do with us. The federal government looks after industrial relations.' Let me refer the minister to a little provision in the Fair Work Act that she might not be across. Section 423 of the Fair Work Act refers to protected industrial action—that is, what the minister has confirmed the ETU has done. That section says that the Fair Work Commission may suspend or terminate protected industrial action because of significant economic harm. Guess who that order can be made by? The section states that the order may be made on own initiative or on application by, lo and behold, the minister. Has the state minister picked up the phone, like I picked up the phone to Bill Shorten when he was the federal workplace relations minister, and told the ETU to get back to work, to keep the Queensland economy driving and get that hospital finished?