




Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**

**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 September 2016

**MOTION: AUSTRALIAN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION COMMISSION**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (6.27 pm): I nearly missed the call, Mr Speaker, because I was conversing with my honourable friends here—the members for Hinchinbrook and Everton—and they were explaining to me that that young 30-year-old over there is a Labor heavyweight union official. I was so surprised about this young man—who could best be described as the Sam Dastyari of the Queensland parliament, this 30-year-old that everyone is scared of—that I nearly missed the call, so shocked and so surprised I was in this young heavy hitter over there. I was so shocked and surprised at the thought that he was the heavyweight, but the honourable members assure me that that is the case. If anything could be more unbelievable it is that.

I swear that the only *deja vu* this member has had in this debate is when he practised in the bathroom mirror half an hour ago, when he wrote his own jokes down and then looked in the mirror and laughed at himself, with his imaginary friends around, and said, 'I think they'll laugh at that. That's a good one. I'm going to say that. Let's write that down.' Anyone who comes in here and has to read a joke off a piece of paper is questionable, but you are the heavy hitter of the Queensland Labor Party, Sir. I honour him as the Queensland heavyweight. I have more respect for you—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, I would ask you to make your contribution relevant to the topic.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** No, it is not a joke, members. We are on show. Queenslanders are watching us as we participate in this debate. I urge all members—and there are more members to speak—

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Brisbane Central, I do not need your assistance. You will have an opportunity shortly. I urge all members to make their contributions relevant to the topic.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Labor Party, including the member for Stretton, who just spoke, have 156,000 reasons to oppose the reintroduction of the ABCC. That is the contribution of the CFMEU in dollars and gifts in kind to the Labor Party in the last six months. That is why the members opposite do not support the reintroduction of the ABCC.

Some of my colleagues will remember Murray Watt. He is now a senator. The Minister for Housing talked about the LNP demonising women in the workforce, yet Murray Watt ousted Jan McLucas because of his own political union alliances. Jan McLucas was a senator for a long time. Murray Watt, being pro women in parliament, ousted Jan McLucas so that he could take the job. Then he said—

I'm very grateful to Left branch members and unions for electing me as our candidate for the forthcoming ballot for @QLDLabor Senate ticket.

Further, I refer to a *Courier-Mail* article, titled 'Veteran Labor senator rolled by faceless union powerbrokers'. I understand that tonight Senator Murray Watt is going to make his maiden speech. Being a senator representing Queensland, this is his chance to stand up for Queensland. I understand that he is going to have an office on the Gold Coast. Perhaps he will stand up to the thuggish behaviour of the CFMEU and the ETU, particularly in relation to the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

Over the last six months the unions have given the ALP \$1.9 million. That money is out of the pockets of workers. Why will they not invest that money back into the pockets of workers? These vulnerable Queenslanders are paying their union dues but that money is going to the Labor Party, not to front-line services, not to delivering social services, not to delivering social housing.

The member for Woodridge, who, I understand, does not live anywhere near Woodridge, is suddenly a friend of the unions. He is trying—in vain, I might add—to take the Socialist Left faction off the Deputy Premier, Jackie Trad. He is trying hard. He has come out in support of vegetation management.

**Mr Springborg:** He's got half.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** He has half. The member for Woodridge then announces a policy for 17-year-olds in youth detention. He is trying very hard to get his colleagues over there in the left faction to support him and not the Deputy Premier. In fact, we have heard little birdies talk about the member for Woodridge. When we were in government, ministers had an open-door policy for departmental officials. The former minister for health, Lawrence Springborg, had an open-door policy. I understand that when the member for Woodridge became the minister he shut all the doors and puts locks on them so that those departmental officials could not get in.

A little birdie has also told me that the builders at 1 William Street have had to readjust the Premier's office because they suspect that it is not going to be occupied by the member for Inala. They have had to put locks on the doors, because the member for Woodridge is on his way to the top level at 1 William Street. He wants only keycard access to keep the public servants out. We know that the only way to stand up for Queenslanders is to reintroduce the rule of law on construction sites in Queensland.