




Speech By  
**Tim Nicholls**

**MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 February 2016

**MOTION: SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS**

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (6.23 pm): Talk about anything but the motion is what the Labor Party is about. We had the former secretary of the Queensland Council of Unions, whose first job was to appoint their mate John Battams to the board of the QIC. Members can imagine how well that went down in the financial community. His greatest experience was sitting on the board of Sunsuper, which was another union appointment.

I believe that the member for Keppel is soon to host a meeting in Sydney with the Coordinator-General to try to get things going on Great Keppel Island—another project that has been stalled under Labor. The members opposite are talking about anything but the grossly unlawful activities that have been uncovered by Dyson Heydon and the trade union royal commission. We can understand why the members opposite want to talk about anything but the trade union royal commission. But even when they do that, there are little gems of information.

We heard the member for Brisbane Central talk about unemployment. But did she mention the increase in unemployed youth in places such as Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, the outback, the Fitzroy and even in her own electorate, the Brisbane CBD? Did she mention that at all in her speech? Indeed, did she mention in any respect the comments that she made on 15 January when she said—

Youth unemployment is always difficult to address. I don't know that there's much you can change structurally ... It's not new, it's been around a long time.

Under this employment minister, youth unemployment is going to be around for a heck of a lot longer. The Mayor of Townsville, Jenny Hill, said that that was not good enough and suggested the decentralisation of the public sector as a solution. Bob Manning said that it was an admission of failure or not really trying and that opportunities to convert a series of bumper tourism seasons into jobs in the Far North were being squandered.

No wonder the members opposite do not want to talk about a suspension of standing orders to allow legislation to go into the parliament that will help the construction and building industry, that will stop unlawful activities, that will ensure that more people can get a job. A productive, effective, efficient and lawful building and construction industry is good for jobs. It is good for the economy. It is good for employment.

What is not good for the building and construction industry is the unlawfulness, the rule of the jungle that has applied since this government came to power and changed the workplace right of entry laws, since they went back to the bad old days of industrial disputation and union thuggery, since they opened the doors to the whatever it takes, anything goes behaviour of the union movement.

There is ample evidence of that behaviour. We have evidence of the destruction of records. Finding No. 213 of the royal commission states—

David Hanna, an agent of the BLF, corruptly received free goods and services from Adam Moor and Mathew McAllum in circumstances where doing so would tend to influence him to show favour to them personally as well as Mirvac in relation to the BLF's affairs.

We have also had the destruction of documents. The report states that, on the day of the service of a subpoena, documents—

... were removed from the Bowen Hills office of the CFMEU QLD. During that process, all the security cameras in the CFMEU QLD office were covered. The documents were taken in a horse float trailer and a box trailer ...

What was it carrying? My little pony? Was it out there with the unicorns? The royal commission into trade unions found that that was done at the instigation of Mr Michael Ravbar. Ravbar and Hanna have both been referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions. Have we heard anything from the DPP yet in relation to that? The only thing we have had is Hanna being charged for threatening while working and entering a building site unlawfully to 'shove a phone down someone's effing throat'.

This motion should be supported. There should be an end to the lawlessness and rule of the jungle that now operates on building sites. We need to bring these unions to heel. We need to enable honest people to go about their job honestly and employ more Queenslanders.