




Speech By  
**Bruce Saunders**

**MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH**

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**SUGAR INDUSTRY (ARBITRATION FOR MILL OWNERS AND SUGAR  
MARKETING ENTITIES) AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (8.55 pm): I rise to oppose the bill. That was probably one of the best job interviews I have heard. I take my hat off to the member for Whitsunday. That is probably one of the best job interviews for the One Nation Party, and he is about to go out and see his boss. Well done! After all the years I have employed staff I would have taken him on that speech because that was an absolutely great interview. I must congratulate the member for Whitsunday.

We sat here in 2015—and it is Groundhog Day, as the member for Whitsunday said. We warned this would happen; we talked about it, and we were told it would not happen. I come from a great sugar-growing area: Maryborough, where MSF is located. It is a fantastic company. It is a bit poor. The growers and the millers have a fantastic relationship. I remember that in 2015 the rabble on that side said it could not happen and that the growers in Maryborough and the millers were selling out the industry. No, they worked together. That is what they do. If Queensland followed the example that MSF set with their growers and the millers and the community, we would not have this.

It is ironic that we hear those from the opposite side of the House talking about free enterprise. Here we have a party that is interfering with the business process of the community and the business sector. They are always telling us on this side of the House that we are interfering in the business side of things, yet here they are interfering in the business side of things. In 2015 everyone on that side of the House was warned that this would go pear-shaped, and did one of them believe us? No, they pushed ahead and here we are today.

This is not about looking after the growers. This is about making sure that the Turnbull government stays in power, that Christensen does not leave. That is what this is all about. This is also an opportunity for job interviews for those opposite with their future leader whom we know is in the precinct tonight. That is what it is all about. Let us talk about honesty. Do not beat around the bush. Where I come from people do not beat around the bush; they talk honestly. What is happening here is that those opposite are making sure they are getting their resumes ready—

**Mr King:** Sharpen them up.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** They are sharpening them up for the move to PHON. That is what they are doing. It is about time they owned up and were fair dinkum to the people of Queensland and to the growers and told them what the real motive is over there, why they want to hold George Christensen in the federal parliament as a National Party member instead of seeing him go over to One Nation. This is all about saving members on that side of the House so they can do up their resumes for One Nation.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The level of conversation is rising. It is getting so loud that it is very difficult to hear what the member for Maryborough is saying. Could members please take their conversations outside.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** One of the things I picked up on when talking to the member for Mackay about the biofuels industry is the future of the cane industry. In my electorate we are working as a government very strongly with MSF regarding the future of biofuels and bioproducts. We have a great company with Mike Barry at the helm—and I am starting to sound like the member for Whitsunday in terms of name dropping, ‘I’ve been everywhere man! I know every name.’ I am starting to sound like him. We have a great company who is willing to invest in my community and good jobs.

**Mr Butcher** interjected.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I take the interjection from the member for Gladstone. We have a company that wants to inject hundreds of millions of dollars across Queensland into the sugar industry and particularly in my part of Queensland, the great city of Maryborough. This bill puts that in jeopardy because these companies are going overseas. They do not have to come to Queensland; they can invest their money overseas. There is no law that says they have to be here. They are creating jobs. Unlike the other side, who are doing up resumes to move camps, the companies that I deal with are looking to create jobs in this great state. As a government and as a community, is it our right to get involved in argy-bargy and discussions between the company and the growers? Is it right for us to dictate to the commercial trades? I know that when I was in business I did not like my trades being dictated to by outside interests. That side of the House keep telling us that we interfere all the time.

**Mr Krause** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! Member for Beaudesert, if you wish to make an interjection you need to be in your seat.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I will take that interjection. Talking about the injured, what about the workers who work in the mills?

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** They are workers—that is right—but what about the workers who work in the mills like the fitters and turners and electricians? There are a lot of them. I have not heard one of the members opposite mention the workers in the mills tonight.

This bill is all about self-interest from that side of the House. As I said, they are all doing their speeches because they hope that the people who are sitting in the Strangers’ Dining Room will be watching the TV so they can go, ‘Yes, tick. No, tick.’ It is all about self-interest and looking after themselves; it is not about the industry.

As I said, I am totally against the bill and I urge all members on the other side of the House—and I said this in 2015—to think very closely before they vote tonight, to think about the ramifications this will have throughout the industry in Queensland. For once, I would ask them not to put their own self-interest first: put the interests of Queenslanders first for a change.