




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 17 May 2018

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (COUNCILLOR COMPLAINTS) AND OTHER
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORAL
(IMPLEMENTING STAGE 1 OF BELCARRA) AND OTHER LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT BILL**

Allocation of Time Limit Order

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.44 am): I rise to speak against the motion. The member who just spoke before me is right to the extent that he says this is the people's house. That is right; that is correct. This is the people's house and the people have elected each and every one of us to do what they think is right on legislation. When there is a major change in the legislation, each and every member of this House has the right to contribute. That is the people's right. We are the people's voice. For the new members in this chamber and the schoolchildren who are quite often here, the reason—

An honourable member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: No, they are not here at the moment, but I have just met with students from King's Christian College, in the member for Mudgeeraba's electorate. They sat up there and listened to this debate when a minister of the Crown in Queensland spoke about this being the people's house but then, hang on a minute, we are not allowed to speak. If we disagree with the government of the day, if we disagree with the minister, our contribution is called a waste of time. How does that work?

We are working with a government that is so arrogant that the Premier walked into this House two mornings ago and announced to the House that this bill will pass. When the Premier was pulled up on that, she doubled down and continued. She said, 'The bill will pass.' She ignored the Speaker's ruling and continued to talk over the top of this legislation. That is the arrogance that we are seeing from those opposite. They believe that, if we disagree with them, it is just a waste of time.

I am pleased I jumped to my feet before the member for Cooper rushed back into this House, because we know from last week that the executioner has arrived. She will jump up in her contribution and she will again guillotine the motion. The executioner came flying in here, but it was very nice that she actually allowed me to speak before she guillotined the debate that we are having now on the motion. I am looking forward to more contributions in relation to this motion. People who have a difference of opinion to those opposite need to have their voices heard because that is what we were elected to do and that is what we do on behalf of our constituents each and every day.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection from the minister who is now on the back-bench because we are not—

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, before you take that, I ask you, Minister, and remind you to ensure you use correct titles.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Like I said, this is the people's house and we all have the right to debate. I look forward to that minister over there having a contribution because I am not sure what her contribution has been to this parliament. We know what her contribution was last parliament; it was the debacle that was the child safety sector. She had to be moved sideways down the list because she obviously was not able to manage the crisis that was the child safety department.

We are debating important issues right here in this House today. The minister before was talking about the fact that we are just going on and on over the same topic. Let me remind those opposite that the amendments that have been brought into this House by the honourable Minister for Local Government have not been through the committee process. We are the ones now trying to debate the reasonableness of those amendments.

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that point from the Leader of the House. That is absolutely right; we are looking forward to debating our amendments. However, the Minister for Local Government has already brought in his amendments, and those amendments have not gone through the committee process. Where is the rigour? That is what we are here to do: to have that debate because it has not gone through the committee process. I see the minister over there giggling away, laughing at that, thinking she is so clever. I cannot wait for her contribution because—

Mr Mander: She is not allowed to.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection. She is not allowed to make a contribution because she does not yet have the notes written up for her by a ministerial staffer. I say to the minister: they are coming. She has five minutes; she can jump up. Get the notes; they are coming up the stairs; they are running up the back stairs. She can have the printed notes. They will look slightly different to the notes from the honourable Minister for State Development.

Again I say we are here on behalf of our electorates. We are here on behalf of the people of Queensland, and that is why this arrogant government has to stop guillotining debates. They have to start listening to the people of Queensland. Let the people of Queensland be heard.