




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2018

REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; BETTING TAX BILL

Allocation of Time Limit Order

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.08 pm): I rise as well to contribute to this motion that we are talking on tonight, because it goes to the heart of the arrogance of this Palaszczuk government and the hypocrisy of this Palaszczuk government when it comes to debate in this House.

Those opposite who were not in this place prior to this term, who were not here when the LNP was in government, probably have a lot to learn. What members opposite are saying tonight is completely different to what they said in opposition when the LNP sat on the government benches. They say one thing when they are in opposition and then they say another thing when they are in government. It is just like what they do when they are out and about in Queensland. The Premier swans around regional Queensland saying one thing and then she comes down here into—

Mr Bleijie: Overseas more often.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection. She then comes down here to the south-east corner and says something completely different. The point I am leading to is what the Premier did when she was the Leader of the Opposition. Compare that to what she and her team are now saying when in government.

Ms Trad: She's doing okay.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Oh, thanks. I am happy to take that interjection.

Ms Trad: Your side is not going to say it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Deputy Premier.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: That comes from a Treasurer who I think set a record for the Queensland parliament—the shortest ever budget speech. She was so embarrassed and put under so much pressure that she had to speak for the full time in her budget reply.

Mr Mander: She was going to speak for the 30 minutes no matter what.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I know. She just had to get to the 30 minutes, beating up on every other—

Mr Bleijie: And still didn't mention 'debt'.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: No, and still did not mention—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I ask you to come back to the motion being debated.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will. I was talking about the Premier and the hypocrisy of what this government says compared to what they said when in opposition. I have a press release here and after I finish my speech I will be happy to table it. This is from 15 October 2014 from the now Speaker of the House, the Hon. Curtis Pitt, when he was the shadow Treasurer. I would like to quote from this because

it sounds like he has written this press release for the current Treasurer. This is why I am standing here, because the Treasurer wants to shut down the debate, does not want us to talk about the fact that the people of Queensland do not want the five new taxes. It states—

I understand Tim Nicholls must be feeling the pressure, but having a bad day is no reason to try and shut down healthy debate on Queensland's budget ...

Amazing! We all know that nothing happens in the Labor Party without the member for South Brisbane's stamp. We know that this press release would have been approved by the member for South Brisbane before it went out. This is another great quote. It states—

It's immature at the very least ... to try and gag the debate because he's embarrassed by his own words and cranky about a key stakeholder—

Mr Bleijie: Is that what they said?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: That is exactly what the stakeholders have said about this Treasurer.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members.

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Southport.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It also goes to this point: it talks about a glass jaw and being unable to take valid criticisms. What we have seen is a Treasurer under pressure who has the biggest glass jaw in this chamber.

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection. She had to come in and justify for 30 minutes why she could not speak for the full time when delivering her actual budget speech. It goes to the fact that each and every week this lazy, hopeless Labor government is unable to deal with the bills before the House, because they keep shutting down the debate. They keep gagging the debate. They do not want us to talk. Why can they not just get their books—

Ms Grace: You can talk till midnight.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection.

Ms Grace: I'll extend the time for you.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection. The Minister for Education has just said that she would like to extend the debate time. Come over to this side, Gracie, and vote with us.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members—

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister for Transport, I understand that your sight was impeded while I was on my feet.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I could not see you.

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, I am halfway through making a determination and you have continued to interrupt. I will caution you that the next time you will be warned under standing orders. Members, I encourage a rigorous debate, but let's do it in an orderly fashion.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Essentially, those on this side of the House have the absolute right to speak on behalf of our constituents. The member for Toowoomba North talked about that. He talked about the fact that we should be allowed to actually speak on pieces of legislation, on clauses of bills, on things that are important to our constituents and to us. We also have all those bills that are going to be guillotined because of what—

Ms Trad: Yes, that's right.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: They are proud of it. Those over there are proud of the fact that when they were in—

Ms Trad interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will not have trouble taking my time, unlike the Treasurer in her speech. She can keep going on that one.

The simple fact of the matter is we should have the ability to speak in this House. That right is given to us by the electors who put us here to speak on their behalf. It is not fair to those people that this government is completely hopeless and is unable to run their agenda. It is not their fault that this government cannot get their books in order. We know that when in opposition they put out press releases every time a debate was guillotined. How many times have we sat in here already this term—we are not even six months into the term and debate after debate—

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister for Transport, your interjections are not being taken.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It will be interesting when we work out how many times the debate has already been guillotined. We know how many bills are already on the agenda. How many of those are going to be shut down before the LNP team get to speak on the debate? How many more times do the good people on this side of the House, who work hard each and every day to represent their electorates, have to be shut down and not allowed to speak?

An honourable member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I know that the member for Mermaid Beach wants to speak on the clauses. He wants to talk on the clauses—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order.

Government members interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON:—and he has the right to be heard.

Mr Hinchliffe: Are you going to table that press release?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: You can get it on his website.

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Ms Trad interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! We will not be having discussion across the chamber. Leader of the Opposition, you need to conduct your conversation through the chair, thank you. I also take this opportunity to remind you to table the document that you have referred to.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I table the document.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 15 October 2014, titled 'Nicholls fails to gag asset sales debate' [\[915\]](#).

It goes to the heart of this government. The arrogance, the secrecy, the fact that they think it is fine to shut down debate just because they do not believe that those on this side have a right to speak on behalf of our constituents is hypocritical. They said one thing when they were in opposition and now they are saying something completely different in government. It is arrogance at its best.

(Time expired)