




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 21 August 2018

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DISSOLUTION OF IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL) BILL

Declared Urgent, Allocation of Time Limit Order

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.40 am): The opposition will support the motion moved by the minister. However, I note what the minister just said, that this could have been done months earlier. It could have. The reality is that we are debating this urgency motion and this bill because the government failed to act. It failed to act on the issues at the Ipswich council for years. The majority of councillors of Ipswich City Council were card-carrying members of the Labor Party. They went to branch meetings. They were in the leadership teams of the Labor Party. The Labor Party knew about the allegations involving Ipswich and it failed to act on them. Now the minister stands in this place and moves an urgency motion.

We have had this debate four times already. We have already debated the Ipswich City Council. During the last sittings or the sittings before, the minister came into the chamber and said that the answer to fixing the issues at Labor's Ipswich City Council was the process he put in place last time. Here we are again believing the minister that this will fix the issues in Ipswich. If we are to believe it now, we should have believed it four sittings ago when these issues were meant to be resolved.

As I said, we support the intention behind the passing of this motion, because we do not believe that the dodgy council at Ipswich should be there either. That debate will ensue. My concern in relation to the urgency motion is that the Liberal National Party has 21 speakers on its list. If the time limit for debate is 5.30, I doubt that all of the LNP members who want to speak will have sufficient opportunity to do so. I am not sure how many government members are on the list to speak. I am advised that it could be as few as five.

Mr Crisafulli: They should all want to speak on it.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection of the member for Broadwater: they should all want to speak, but I can understand why they do not want to. It is their Labor mates at Ipswich they are talking about sacking today. It is the cause of the corruption concerns at Ipswich. I am concerned. There are 21 members of the Liberal National Party who want to speak to the bill.

In terms of the reasons for the urgency motion, I understand that those opposite have organised the Acting Governor to attend Governor in Council tomorrow to ensure the advisory council can be set up, but this is just a theme developing with this lazy Labor government. Every week we are seeing debate of bills guillotined, debate of motions guillotined, closure motions and motions that members be not further heard. I am waiting for the Leader of the House to stand up and move that I be not further heard. It is about to happen. Every week in this parliament this year we have been debating urgency motions.

I am not disregarding the importance of this—this is the type of bill in respect of which you do have an urgency motion—but this Labor government is moving urgency motions and guillotining every sort of bill before the House. We know that the Leader of the House has another plan to make sure

members do not get an opportunity to speak on behalf of their constituents. Later this week, or today, she will move a motion to curtail not only the hours of parliament but also the speaking opportunities given to members who represent approximately 40,000 people in this place. This urgency motion is on top of other motions against democracy, against the people's house. Last night at the Q150 event the Premier spoke for minutes about how great this is because this is the people's house and the people will have a say through their members of parliament. That is rubbish, because every time members want to get up and have a say on behalf of their constituents they are closed down, debate is finished, urgency motions are moved. It will get to the point that there will be no debate in this place because the government just wants to rush through its agenda with its majority.

The Liberal National Party will not oppose the urgency motion. I am expressing concern that the LNP has 21 members who want to speak to the bill. I hope they will get the opportunity to speak but, on the basis of what we have seen in previous sittings this year, I highly doubt that will be the case because the government cannot manage its own agenda and cannot sort out these issues.

I hope that this is the last time we debate Ipswich City Council, because this is the fourth attempt, of some sort of urgency motion in this parliament, to fix Labor's issue at Ipswich City Council. In debate of the bill the shadow minister will lead the charge in reminding the Labor Party that this is their fault and their council. The majority of Labor Ipswich city councillors are card-carrying members of the Labor Party.