




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 13 February 2018

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.01 am): Madam Presiding Member, I rise to second the nomination moved by the Leader of the Opposition for the member for Caloundra to take the chair as Speaker. The role of the Speaker is the most prestigious and important in the life of the Queensland parliament. In the Westminster system the role predates almost every office including that of Prime Minister and Premier. The position has enormous responsibilities and represents all of us in this chamber, and in fact the people of Queensland, on many ceremonial and regal occasions. The position needs to be fiercely independent, even more so since the Labor Party scrapped the upper house in 1922. We have no second chamber to hold this government to account. If governments are not held to account there will not be proper scrutiny. That is why the Speaker needs to be an independent figure. That is why the Speaker needs to be trusted by both sides of the House. That is why the Speaker must be beyond reproach.

Nobody in this House is more qualified for this role than the member for Caloundra. With 18 years experience in the Queensland parliament he has the perfect pedigree for this prestigious position. He has held numerous roles in those 18 years. He has been a minister of the Crown, has held various shadow ministries, has served on at least 10 parliamentary committees and has been a party leader and deputy leader of the opposition. This is the breadth and knowledge of parliament that is necessary for anybody to fulfil this role. He also possesses the personal traits that are necessary. He is always calm, considered and courteous. The member for Caloundra's health battle has shown us all his courage, his humour and his strength.

The member for Caloundra would make an outstanding Speaker. In total contrast we have the government's nomination of the member for Mulgrave. The LNP cannot support a nomination when there is such a dark cloud hanging over his head. The member for Mulgrave's account of his involvement in the Queensland Rail pay deal with the unions is totally unconvincing. We all now know what happened. The QR board did not want a bar of the deal, a deal to satisfy the Labor Party's union masters. The Labor government needed a political solution, so the then treasurer ordered the board to sign the deal. There was no discussion, there was no debate and there was no reasoning with him. He wanted the QR board's fingerprints on this dodgy deal and not his own. The member for Mulgrave's statement to parliament on this issue puts a stain on his integrity. Then we have the member for Mulgrave's record as treasurer, and we all know that that was weak. Obviously the government agrees with that assessment. If it did not, he would still be in the ministry and we would not be having this debate about his nomination for Speaker.

I do have some sympathy for him. The Premier promised during the election campaign that his job as treasurer was safe—and what a hollow promise that has turned out to be. His dumping would have come as a shock to him. To be dumped from cabinet is bad enough. To be dumped from this cabinet is embarrassing. If this Premier thinks you are incompetent you really have problems. As has already been mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition, to add to this humiliation the Deputy Premier could not even bring herself to second his nomination. No doubt the Premier wanted to soften the blow

and that is why she has nominated him as Speaker. Members, it is not the parliament's responsibility to compensate the member for Mulgrave for being sacked. Our duty is to elect a Speaker with experience and unquestioned integrity. It is clear that the best candidate is the member for Caloundra.