




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

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

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.51 am): Mr Speaker, thank you for your guidance. This motion that has been moved by the government does go to the core of our democracy. As the Leader of the Opposition has said, this is all about making sure that this is not just the people's house by name but also the people's house by action. Every member in this chamber has the right to stand up and represent their constituents on every matter that is discussed in this chamber. The issues that we have been talking about today and throughout this week are significant issues. It is significant legislation that is being looked at. That means that every member of this chamber has the right to make a contribution to this debate.

It is hard to understand why the Labor government is uneasy about that proposition. I can only put it down to arrogance. A government that is afraid to be asked questions, is afraid to be accountable, is afraid to be pressed back—one can only think that it comes down to arrogance—

Dr Rowan: And hubris.

Mr MANDER:—and hubris; I take that interjection from the member for Moggill. It is amazing what a few positive polls do to a government when they start getting an inflated ego. We have a Premier who thinks that she is untouchable, and that sentiment, that vibe, starts filtering down to the other members of the government—that arrogance—to say that they are untouchable. They believe they are so popular with the Queensland public that they can get away with anything. These are the things that bring governments down. This arrogance and hubris is what brings governments down. This attack on the democracy of our state, on the rights of every person in this chamber to have their say, is totally unacceptable.

Again, it does not surprise us that the members on the opposite side of the House seem to have something against sitting late into the evening or into the early hours of the morning and staying in the chamber and working hard until these things have been fully debated. Again we wonder why. I suppose we should not be surprised when every person on the other side of the House has a strong union background or was a strong union delegate. Working past seven o'clock without receiving penalty rates is something that they would not be used to. It is something that, again, goes against the history of this place, of this chamber, when we will stay here for as long as it takes. We will tell the people of Queensland and show them that we are willing to work as hard as we need to in order to ensure there is a forensic examination of the legislation before the House. The opposition leader has already mentioned that there are 40 pages of amendments that the minister is proposing that have not been through the committee process.

Mr Krause: This is the committee process.

Mr MANDER: This is the committee process; I take that interjection from the member for Scenic Rim, and I am congratulating myself on remembering that electorate. He makes a very valid point that this is the committee system when legislation does not go through the committee process. Each member in this House has an opportunity to comment and to ask questions about incredibly serious issues.

The Leader of the House has said that they want this bill passed by the end of the day. The end of the day for them is five o'clock. The end of the day for other hardworking small business people is whenever the work is done, when they are finished. They do not just clock off at five o'clock when something else has to be done; they stay there and work harder. Guess what? All those small business people get paid nothing extra for that, unlike the union delegates on the other side, who demand penalty rates and extra meal allowances if they work for a minimum amount of time past knock-off time.

There is no reason at all that we cannot stay in this House, continue this debate and make sure that every part of the legislation is discussed. I see the member for Cooper. She is just champing at the bit to get up to stop this debate now, as she has done previously. Again, this is an example of the hubris of the House. It is an example of the arrogance of this Premier that is just trickling down right through every member of the government, who think they are untouchable, who think that they can do whatever they want at a whim.

I take on board the comments that the Manager of Opposition Business made previously about this Premier, whose arrogance is such that she thinks she is part of the royal court and that people wait on her. She expects kids at airports to have posies for her and chucked an absolute wobbly because she did not receive an invitation to the royal wedding. I am sure there will be a letter of protest about that as well. This is the height of arrogance and hubris—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton, I draw you back to the motion. I have made a statement prior to you speaking, which goes for all—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, I am giving a ruling. You will hear the ruling. Member, I gave you guidance as well as other members of the House about straying too far from the procedural motion before the House. I draw you back to that motion. Please heed that warning or I will sit you down.

Mr MANDER: Thank you for that direction, Mr Speaker. Let me say one more time that we have a Westminster style of government. We believe that the people who sit in this House represent around 35,000 voters each and that those 35,000 voters have every right to have their local member get up and represent their views. They have the right to read *Hansard* to see what we did say in this chamber, to see what our contribution was.

Mr Crisafulli: They hang on every word.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the member for Broadwater. I know that the constituents in my electorate do hang on every word that I say in this place.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members. Member, you brought that on yourself.

Mr MANDER: I accept that. I did not say they agree with every word; I just said they hang on every word. We will be voting against this motion because it goes against the very core of democracy.