




Speech By
Bruce Saunders

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

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HOLIDAYS AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (5.05 pm): I rise to support the bill. Let us get a few things straight and have a look at the bill. I was on the committee, but I cannot understand something. The LNP says this is once again another example of the Palaszczuk government being pro union but anti worker. I cannot work that out. It has been doing my head in since I read the report. I am struggling to understand that.

I have been in small business for many, many years. The LNP are talking about the costs. We are talking about six hours on Christmas Eve. The people over there talk about the wonders of Christmas and family, but they do not want people to spend Christmas Eve with their families, with their young ones—but they are all pro families and all pro businesses. I just think that some people over there speak with forked tongue. I could be wrong. I may not understand it but I think they do. They are worried about small business.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Order! There is way too much chatter in the chamber. Member for Pumicestone, you have just resumed your seat.

Mr SAUNDERS: During the Newman era, 14,000 public servants were sacked and there was a trickle-down effect. Actually, it was not a trickle; it was an avalanche. It was like thunder rolling down the hills in small communities. They have the hide to tell me that six hours is going to send businesses under, that six hours is going to make a big impact. Well, they did not get through the Newman GFC, because I did and I know a lot of small businesses that never recovered from that.

They talk about looking after small businesses. That is a joke. Is this 1 April? Have we got in the TARDIS and come down on 1 April? It is a joke that they are standing there and telling us that this will send small businesses broke because we know their manifesto clearly states they are going to cut, sack and sell again. They will cut, sack and sell. They think that six hours is going to affect small businesses.

Mr Watts interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr SAUNDERS: I take the interjection from the member for Toowoomba North when he tells me—

Mr Watts interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Order! Member for Maryborough, resume your seat. Member for Toowoomba North, I called for order three times. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr SAUNDERS: He has the hide to sit there and tell us that this is going to really affect the economy of Queensland and it is going to send businesses broke.

Mr WATTS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have not told the member anything. He said that I had the hide to sit here and tell him, but I have not said anything.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order. Member for Toowoomba North, resume your seat.

Mr SAUNDERS: Thank you for that protection, Madam Deputy Speaker. If that is the best they can do, we are in trouble! We will be here for another 30 years. We will have to be cemented in this place. If that is the front bench on their side, we are going really well.

This bill is good for workers. Let us calm down and have a look at it. I live in regional Queensland. How many people in regional Queensland have got small businesses? I had small businesses in regional Queensland. After 4.30 or quarter to five, you could shoot a cannon down the streets because most people were home with their families, they were at their family celebrations, they were going to church or they were going to a get-together. If you have to work on Christmas Eve and you have to take time away from your family, I think you should be compensated and remunerated. I believe that is fair.

Some people do not have a choice. The member for Pumicestone said they have a choice. I say no, they do not. I know that businesses tell people, 'You will be here or else.' That is what happens in the real world. We know the only way we get change is through legislation; it is through legislative change, and that is what is happening right now.

We are hearing that this is a tidal wave, it is going to cost jobs, Queensland is going to be shut down, we will all be in the dark and all the dreadful things that are going to happen to Queensland between 6 pm and midnight on Christmas Eve. Let me tell honourable members something. Those opposite think this is bad. However, after another two years of the Morrison government that is what we will see. We are now seeing the worst retail figures we have ever seen. Those opposite are talking about the GFC, but we are talking about a government that is bringing business to its knees. They can sit there and yell and talk about it, but I can tell them they only have to look at the retail sales figures and the discretionary spending in Australia right now, all because of the Morrison government; that is what is causing the problems. It is a disgraceful government. Those opposite talk about looking after small business. They say they are the champions of small business. However, there are crickets when we talk about Scott Morrison and what they are doing to the economy of this country, what they are doing to the workers and what they are doing to the small business owners.

Those opposite come in here and huff and bluff and then they go and have a little tippie of egg nog on Christmas Eve with their business leaders and talk about 'those dreadful unions'. We can see them now. We can see them poncing around saying, 'Oh those dreadful unions!' Then they go out and say to the workers in factories, 'We're with you, fellas. We're with you, brothers. We're looking after you.' I have said it before and I will say it again: there are a lot of forked tongues on that side of the House. They could not lie straight in bed. We know what happened during the Newman era. Do honourable members remember the 'pooper scooper'? Everyone would remember that. He was talking about the former premier and the public servants. Let me tell honourable members something. If this mob gain control of the treasury benches in this state again they will make Campbell Newman look absolutely brilliant because they are ready to cut, sack and sell. I commend this bill to the House.