




Speech By
Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORAL (IMPLEMENTING STAGE 2 OF BELCARRA) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

ELECTORAL AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (5.26 pm): I rise to speak to the cognate debate on the Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 2 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 along with the Electoral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. I want to acknowledge my fellow members of the Economics and Governance Committee for their careful deliberation of these two bills. We have already heard from my colleagues and relevant shadow ministers—the member for Warrego and the member for Toowoomba South—about the evolution of Labor’s bill that purports to implement recommendations from the CCC’s 2017 Belcarra report. We know of the raft of amendments Labor has made and then removed, the recommendations given and ignored and the gradual insidious shift away from the implementation of the Belcarra report to the inclusion of significant self-serving Labor reforms designed to gain political advantage. In fact, 58 per cent of the clauses in this bill do not even relate to the integrity body’s, the CCC’s, Belcarra report.

I am mindful that in a few minutes the House will be moving to some other matters and I honestly have not had time to peruse the 50 pages of amendments that were dumped on us only a few hours ago, so I might try to fast-track a lot of what I was going to talk about to get finished in time. As Labor has reminded us repeatedly, the intent of the Belcarra report was to strengthen and encourage more transparency and integrity within our local government processes to provide consistency and accountability to taxpayers across Queensland. What did Labor do on the back of that report? It overhauled industrial relations laws for all of Queensland local governments without consultation.

We can now all breathe a sigh of relief knowing that the Labor Party has ditched its cynical plan to force CPV on councils, but it begs the question: why did the government initially introduce CPV in the first place? Winston Churchill famously once said that preferential voting has the potential to make winners out of losers. As we all know, not only does compulsory preferential voting for mayors and single-councillor elections have nothing to do with the Belcarra report; the vast majority of local government stakeholders did not want it. The result of a survey conducted by the LGAQ, the peak body for local governments, revealed that more than 70 per cent of respondents did not support voting changes. Queensland councils rejected compulsory preferential voting systems. Indeed, 98 per cent of mayors and councillors voted it down. Should Labor have progressed its ill-thought plan to reintroduce CPV, the cost of upcoming local government elections would have skyrocketed from \$17.2 million to \$27.4 million.

One more unnecessary and convoluted change that is contained in the bill is the rewrite of the material personal interests and conflict of interest provision which I now—

Debate, on motion of Mr Purdie, adjourned.