




Speech By  
**Ann Leahy**

**MEMBER FOR WARREGO**

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## **COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (12.57 pm): I rise to make a contribution in relation to the COVID-19 Emergency Response and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Before I go on with my contribution in relation to how Labor has corruptly manipulated the local government voting system for their own political advantage, we have to say, 'We told you so.' I want to say a few words about former Rockhampton mayor Margaret Strelow.

**Mr WHITING:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to the parliamentary language that was used during that particular contribution.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): There is no point of order.

**Ms LEAHY:** I wish to say a few words about former Rockhampton mayor Margaret Strelow. She was the first female mayor of Rockhampton and held the mayoral role from 2000 to 2008 and again from 2012 to 2020. The then former member of parliament Bill Byrne, as we heard earlier, retired in 2017. Labor preselection was won by the now member for Rockhampton, who defeated—

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is going through a matter of history rather than one directly associated with the bill. A preselection contest for a state seat has nothing to do with this bill. I ask her to come back to the bill.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I am listening carefully to the contribution of the member. I am looking for some relevance. I will give the member a little bit of latitude. Bear in mind that we are one minute away from lunch.

**Ms LEAHY:** There was a Labor preselection where Margaret Strelow—who is the reason why we have this legislation and these amendments in the House—was defeated. She went on to run as an independent. I wish to place on record my thanks to the mayor, Margaret Strelow, for her service to Rockhampton over a period of 16½ years and her three years as a councillor. She has been a strong advocate for her region and community. Convincingly, she received 68 per cent of the vote, which is part of the reason why we have some of these amendments here in the House.

When the original bill and the amendments to the amendments were introduced in June this year, the explanatory notes stated that these reforms would clarify and strengthen the filling of a vacancy of the office of a councillor. I also note that the amendments to the amendments did not go through the committee process, and again we have this bill which did not go through the committee process. It makes you wonder what the government is hiding.