



Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**


**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 November 2020

**MOTION**

**Sessional Orders**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (5.36 pm): I was sitting up in my office toiling away and I heard the minister actually say the words: 'The more things change, the more things stay the same.' In this parliament, the 57th Parliament, what do we have on the first day? The opposition being shut down and the crossbench being shut down. That is what we have.

This is a government that once again is treating this House like its own personal plaything. I heard the Manager of Opposition Business talk about how the Palaszczuk government spent the entire 56th Parliament using the parliament as their own political plaything. I point out for new members—I know some of those members were here in the outskirts of the parliament because they were staffer—but—

**A government member:** Cheap shot.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** How is that a cheap shot? What is wrong with being a staffer? I take the interjection from the member over there who has already been critical of his own colleagues for being staffers. There we have it. What a shame.

The point of the amendment that the Manager of Opposition Business has moved in this House is to bring some fairness, equity and transparency back into this good House. This is the people's house. The parliament of Queensland is the people's house. It is not Labor's house. It is not the Palaszczuk government's house. It is the people of Queensland's house.

**Mr Saunders** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** And there we have it again. We have an arrogant member of the government who thinks it is their plaything. I say this to the member for Maryborough, every single crossbench member and every single opposition member has been elected by the good people of their electorate in the same way the member has. The members on this side of the chamber have the same right to speak as those over there.

The minister continued her diatribe saying that this motion does not stop people from speaking. What a load of absolute codswallop. What absolute codswallop. In the 56th Parliament the Palaszczuk government guillotined more debate and more motions than I would suggest any other parliament that has ever sat in this great House. It was the Palaszczuk government that refused to allow opposition members to speak. The minister tried to assert that the opposition members were forced to speak. What a load of codswallop. Good luck to the minister finding anyone who would even back that up.

The member for Maroochydore was absolutely right. The member for Maroochydore and the Manager of Opposition Business, the member for Kawana, have spent many years in this chamber representing their communities and standing up for the rights of their communities who have elected these good people into this chamber. That is what we are here to do. We should have the right to speak on bills and not have this parliament shut down debate so that we are not allowed to speak on behalf of our community. That is exactly what the motion moved by the Leader of the House does.

The Leader of the House said, 'We only have a few small changes to the sessional orders from the 56th Parliament.' For the new members of the House and the old members of the House, read them and compare them. Do the job that you have been elected to do. Do not just be lemmings and follow the government over a cliff. Every week the opposition or the crossbench is meant to be able to move a motion. We get to move a motion because that is what our constituents have elected us to do. Instead, as the Manager of Opposition Business has said, the motion will now be negated by the government each and every Wednesday. We will come in here and move our motion. We will be reasonable in our motion, as we always are.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** We will be reasonable in our motions, as we always are. We will use every single word that we are allowed to use—as many as possible, and I hope that tradition continues. I can pre-empt already what will happen with the first opposition's motion. We will put forward a motion to hold the government to account, to argue a point around an issue that is important to all Queenslanders. The Leader of the House will come in and say, 'No. That motion is wiped out because we are going to wipe out every word after whatever the first word of the motion is.' Then the Leader of the House will move an amendment to insert all of her words. We are going to have to sit in this chamber and argue the government's motion when the government has already taken every speaking spot from the crossbench and the opposition. This is absolutely a crying shame.

The Palaszczuk government was originally elected on the platform of openness, transparency and accountability. Where did that go? How long did that last? It certainly did not last very long in the last parliament.

**Mr Saunders** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order, member for Maryborough!

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I understand that the Premier is the first premier in the nation ever to be held in contempt of parliament. The former deputy premier, the then treasurer—

**Mr STEVENS:** Who?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Who?—ended up being sacked from her position. How many other ministers had to stand down while they had a cloud of integrity over them? The roads minister had to sit up the back while he had a cloud over his head.

**Mr Saunders** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Maryborough, you are continuing to interject after I have called you to order. You are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms Simpson:** It was the mango man.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** That is right. I will take the interjection of the member for Maroochydore. It was the mango man. I will correct the record: it was mangocube. When that integrity scandal was over the head of the minister for roads, he had to sit up the back. The Premier was all embarrassed and had to get rid of a minister out of her cabinet—

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The member has significantly strayed from dealing with the sessional orders.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you for your point of order. I will take some advice.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise on the point of order. The point the honourable member is making about the sessional orders is that my amendment tries to get motion debate for private members' motions. We want to prosecute these integrity issues. Hence, that is why we want more motion debate. That is why it is relevant.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, members! Thank you, Manager of Opposition Business. It sounds like you are trying to give me advice. I will take the advice. Member for Nanango, I will ask you to come back to the terms of the debate.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** It was quite often that the motions put forward by the opposition in the 56th Parliament had to be so long because the integrity scandals were so many. We had to use every single word that the Clerk allowed us to because there were so many integrity scandals. We had to list them all to try to debate them. No wonder the Palaszczuk government is trying to stop the opposition and the crossbench from having the opportunity to debate motions in this House about their integrity scandals—because there are so many. There are too many to even list. There were many and nearly every week, on behalf of the people of Queensland, we had a very good motion to hold the government to account.

We are extremely fortunate that in Australia we have the incredible democracy that we do. This democracy is one that men and women went to war to fight over to ensure that each and every Queenslander had a voice. This is a very important point. Each and every Queenslander deserves to have a voice in this parliament. If their voice in this parliament happens to be an opposition member or a crossbench member, their voice is as important as someone who lives in a government electorate. That voice should be heard in this House—the people's house—and that is exactly why I support the amendments moved by the Manager of Opposition Business.