



Speech By  
**Linus Power**

**MEMBER FOR LOGAN**

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**PUBLIC SERVICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**



**Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (3.46 pm): Thank you for your indulgence, Madam Deputy Speaker.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Turn on your microphone.

**Mr POWER:** Sorry, I thought I had. Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker.

**Mr Watts:** It was better before.

**Mr POWER:** Many have said that. We have listened to a number of speeches, and the Minister for Industrial Relations noticed there was a good deal of repetition from those on the other side. When I worked at universities tutoring and marking essays we were often encouraged to use CheatCheck software. You would feed essays through and see how much repetition there was with phrases and key words.

**A government member:** Phrases and key words, you say?

**Mr POWER:** Phrases and key words. If we were to use that software on the speeches of those opposite there would be a 'bing' sound. Bing! At that point I would have to—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Logan, thank you for the entertainment. I am not sure it is called CheatCheck any longer. Can we come back to the bill, please.

**Mr POWER:** I may have used a euphemistic name for it. I am speaking directly to the bill because I am speaking about the contribution they made to the bill and reflecting to this House what they said—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Logan, I have made the call. Can you come back to the long title of the bill, please.

**Mr POWER:** Indeed, I did. During their contributions they spoke directly and repetitiously about public servants. In his speech the member for Lockyer said—and this was almost exactly repeated by others verbatim—that some members of the public call public servants 'fat cat bureaucrats'. I wish to endorse the member for Lockyer when he spoke in support of our hardworking public servants, including nurses, teachers and others; however, I have never heard anyone in the Public Service call them 'fat cat bureaucrats'. Usually, as I said in relation to their repetitive speeches, that is a phrase used in the speeches of those opposite who attack the public servants who implement our laws.

The speeches of those opposite were incredibly repetitive but they had a few of the same talking points. I want to highlight the fact that in an earlier draft which was given to me in secret they were all to repeat a different phrase. They were to say, 'The Public Service has nothing to fear from the incoming LNP government.' Luckily, one of those eagle-eyed backbenchers spotted that draft and said, 'No, we can't say that again!' We know they said that last time. They went on to sack 14,000 workers after telling the Public Service they had nothing to fear.

We need to know that what they say here when they pretend to support public servants means they will actually go on to undermine the working conditions of public servants when they get into government. Public servants understand that because they know they were told they had nothing to

fear, but under an LNP government they would have everything to fear. I have heard so often from those opposite how we have to reduce public servant numbers. They have no economic plan to actually pay for the promises they have made. We know they will go on to sack public servants.

I wish to stand up in support of this bill because it further strengthens our Public Service. This bill was to be referred to the Economics and Governance Committee but it was even more ably served by the education committee and the member for Nudgee who chairs it. This bill is all about creating quality jobs within the Public Service. We recognise the thousands of hard workers who help out Queenslanders every day. I want to recognise our nurses who are so central to the fight against COVID-19. They are public servants who wish to see permanency in their conditions and know that they have a safe and secure job. We have testing centres in the Logan Hospital and the Logan West Community Centre. Both of those institutions saw cuts from the LNP in the previous government. There was no job security given to those public servants—the very public servants who are keeping us safe during this pandemic.

The minister and I recently visited Logan Hospital and met with the cleaners, nurses and doctors. They all value what is in this bill in terms of the conditions, the way in which disputes are managed and improvements in their performance. Those workers were all cut under the LNP, as were the schoolteachers, teacher aides and cleaners. At the Yarrabilba State Secondary College, where we are building a new performing arts space, and the new school we are building in the Greenbank community, teacher numbers were cut to the point where classroom numbers began to increase because there was not that security and backing of the public servants.

We also know about the police. They deserve to have decent working conditions when they are out there on the front line dealing with Queenslanders who are at their absolute worst. We also know that they are out there keeping us safe. They deserve respect as public servants because they are on our borders keeping us safe. That is one thing they would not have to do under the LNP because we know that on 64 occasions they called for our borders to be free and open and for no-one to be there—

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms McMillan): Member for Buderim, I think I can pre-empt your point of order. Member for Logan, I had asked other speakers to come back to the long title of the bill.

**Mr POWER:** When they attacked fat cat bureaucrats, they were often speaking about some of those people who did not necessarily deal with the public—such as the people in the TMR south coast region who design the very roads we travel on. Those engineers and designers working in those jobs deserve to be treated with decency and respect, and this is what this bill is about. I know that because they are working hard on the section from Rosia Road to Stoney Camp Road and the new Jimboomba bridge, which is fantastic.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order under relevance. I am not sure how local roads are of relevance to the bill.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I think that issue is a little more relevant than the border issue, but I thank the member for Buderim for his guidance. Member for Logan, I can see the relevance of that last point but I do remind you to come back to the long title of the bill.

**Mr POWER:** Thank you for your guidance. It is the real diversity of work that public servants are doing for us in all sorts of scales—whether they are workers in hospitals, teachers, police and even those road designers I spoke about. They all deserve respect. They do not need to be interrupted by those opposite as we are giving them compliments. Those opposite have no respect for them and do not support bills like this that give our hardworking public servants fairer working conditions.