




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 10 September 2020

CRIME AND CORRUPTION AMENDMENT BILL

Order Discharged and Withdrawal

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (3.14 pm): As the Manager of Opposition Business has said, of course we will support this motion. I feel compelled to make a contribution to this debate. This is the greatest backflip since the last backflip, the reversal of the air conditioning policy. For two years we were lambasted, criticised and told it was not possible. Of course, this government did a backflip on that. That backflip was the greatest backflip since the Adani backflip, when the Premier herself was furious—furious with her own government and furious with herself—because of the lack of process.

Mrs D'ATH: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I know that the member has great difficulty being relevant in this chamber, but I ask that he be brought back to the motion.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): I am listening carefully to the member's contribution. I must admit that I am struggling to see the link between the motion and what the member is talking about. I am sure that the member is going to bring his comments back to the motion at hand.

Mr MANDER: I will try harder. At the core of this is the fact that we have a government in turmoil, a government that is crumbling around us. These are the types of things that happen when a government has been in power for too long, when it is tired, when it does not have attention to detail.

This was an absolute embarrassment for the government. They came in here and said that the matter was so urgent that it needed to be addressed immediately. Less than 24 hours later, under appropriate pressure from the media, which launched a blitzkrieg against them with regard to what this meant for democracy and the blow that it was, the government retreated immediately. They made a tactical withdrawal, which still leaves a blemish on them with regard to their lack of attention to detail and not having a real agenda.

This is a sign that this government is crumbling. We have seen that again this week and today, with three ministers deserting this government. It shows that with—

Mrs D'Ath: Are yours deserting as well? Are you saying they are deserting? No, yours are 'retiring'.

Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection. Ours retire for the right reasons, not because of factional warfare. Good people like the member for Stafford are forced out. The member for Stafford, one of the more decent members of the Labor Party, has been forced out—

Mrs D'ATH: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance.

Mr Bleijie: It was your interjection. He took your interjection.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will not have cross-chamber quarrelling. I will wait for silence and then I will take some advice from the Table Office. Member, once again I ask you to come back to the motion at hand.

Ms McMILLAN: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at some of the comments made by the honourable member as they relate to some of my colleagues. I believe that he has presented them in a very unfair way.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, the custom in the House is that we ask for a withdrawal when somebody has taken personal offence on a matter.

Mr MANDER: I withdraw. Here we are, on the last sitting day of the 56th Parliament. It is ending in the shemozzle that this government has been for the last five years. It is emblematic of this government—its dysfunction, its disorganisation, its lack of attention to detail and basically, in the end, its lack of courage. If they honestly believed this, why would they have not gone through with the bill? The moment there was an ounce of pressure—and, may I say, appropriate pressure—this government wilted and surrendered. They stand for nothing. It shows that they have no principles. It is one of the reasons—one of the many reasons—that this government will suffer defeat on 31 October.