Speech By

Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2021

VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING BILL

Mr WHITING (Bancroft—ALP) (4.25 pm): I think the Katter's Australian Party should be in a position to explain a little bit further to the House what they are trying to do. Clearly, they have moved this at the last moment.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr WHITING: This debate is one of the most important exercises of our democracy that we will see during this term. I do not think anyone on the side of the member for Southern Downs will appreciate him taking such a point on this particular amendment. I point out that we have a long way to go on this, and it is unfortunate that the Katter's Australian Party want to go down this path, especially considering they are often on record as voting for and speaking to the business program motion to lengthen debate to ensure people do have their say on this matter.

Many members will be speaking longer on this, but I point out that we do need to see a copy of the amendment we are talking to. I am sure other people will rise to their feet in a moment to speak to this. I re-emphasise that this is a historic debate. We need to have the opportunity to speak, and I think that opportunity reflects what members opposite have been saying.

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr WHITING: I hear the member for Toowoomba North speaking on this. It would be interesting to see where the LNP stand on this particular amendment. Are they going to support the Katter amendment or not?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr WHITING: Make your minds up. As I said, it will be interesting to see where they stand on this.

Mr Lister: It will be very interesting to see how many Labor members support it.

Mr WHITING: I point out that the interjections from the members opposite should reach a level of wittiness. I think that should be imposed on them. I think we all need some extra time to consider what has been moved, but I am sure other people will speak on this amendment in a moment.