




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 10 March 2021

MOTION

Australian Building and Construction Commission

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (5.46 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the motion moved by the member for Kawana. If the industrial relations minister opposes this motion we need to change the portfolio name that she is responsible for. She should become the minister for union promotion.

Government members interjected.

Mr MANDER: I thought that would be the response. If the minister is proud of that maybe she should become the minister for protecting unions who participate in workplace bullying and thuggery. That is what the minister should become if she opposes the reasonable motion moved by the member for Kawana. This minister and this government is doing the bidding of the trade union movement. Before every government speaker spoke tonight they should have declared a conflict of interest because it is impossible for them to be impartial.

The member for Buderim talked about the objectives of the ABCC. The ABCC is to uphold the law and change behaviour to make the building and construction industry fair, efficient and productive. By opposing this motion the government has shown that they oppose and disagree with the rule of law. They do not respect the judicial processes in this country. They disrespect the judiciary, the judges, who have made their rulings against, more often than not, the militant sections of the trade union movement—the CFMMEU.

This government by opposing this motion shows that they agree with the behaviour of the CFMMEU, and there have been examples of that tonight. I want to be more explicit because their behaviour has been appalling. I want to show the hypocrisy of this government. How would they feel if somebody walked into the Premier's office and said, 'I'll expletive rape your kids expletive!' How would the member for Nudgee feel if somebody from here walked into her office and called her 'an expletive maggot? That is what they accept. That is what they say is acceptable.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Everton—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Minister, I am going to hear the point or order in silence.

Mr de BRENNI: The member for Everton's language is both unparliamentary and I think it is a reasonable view that he is seeking to use it in a way to threaten both the office of the Premier—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr de BRENNI:—and the member for Nudgee.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr de BRENNI: I ask that you rule that that conduct is disorderly.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice. Member, you have used unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr MANDER: I withdraw. Mr Deputy Speaker, I agree that that language is offensive, but that is acceptable behaviour by this government. This government thinks that is acceptable behaviour. That is what the ABCC is here for—to stamp that out. The government does not stand for every worker. They will not represent non-union members. They do not care about the rights of workers—only the people who pay their union dues. That is the only people they care about.

We know the stronghold that the unions have on this government. That can best be seen through the best practice principles. The best practice principles are all about promoting unionism and making sure that they get more than they deserve. We have seen the examples already from the Minister for Public Works, de Brenni, who is often described in the media as the most ineffective minister in this government.

We have seen the cost of the Townsville stadium blow out by millions of dollars because of the union demands. We had the police minister bumbling his way through an interview the other week about the increased costs of the Southern Queensland Correctional Centre. He was asked: 'Why was there a \$30 million blowout?' He replied: 'Bumble, bumble, bumble—because there are four extra beds—bumble, bumble, bumble.'

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr Langbroek: Good luck, Hansard!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not quite sure what you think you are achieving by making it difficult for Hansard to hear your own speaker on their feet trying to make an important point on a motion that those on the left side of the House have moved, but I ask you to maintain a level of decorum that is appropriate to this parliament.

Mr MANDER: There are blowouts because of the best practice principles. Already other members have talked about the extra costs—30 per cent it is estimated—on unit development and housing construction because of the unreasonable demands of the trade union movement.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Minister, you are warned.

Mr MANDER: That is why we have to keep the ABCC going. We have seen the contempt they have for workers. Also, with regard to the appointment of the QCC board, the regulator has a high-ranking union official who is renowned for breaking industrial law. He is on the board, the regulator, of the building industry in this state. That tells us everything with regard to the contempt that they have for the construction industry and for the common worker. It is imperative that the ABCC stays and that it does what its charter says. Its charter is to make sure that we have a fair and proper construction industry and not one that is dominated by union thuggery.

(Time expired)