




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 24 February 2021

MOTION

Estimates Process, Referral to Committee of the Legislative Assembly

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (5.05 pm): Talk about living in the bubble! I rise to oppose the motion moved by the member for Maroochydore. I cannot believe the hypocrisy of what I just heard in the speech by the member for Maroochydore. Of all people! The member has been in this chamber since 1992. It is unfortunate that the member has forgotten the farce of the Newman government—a complete memory gap of three years.

Let's walk down memory lane, shall we? The first thing the LNP did was throw the then Labor opposition out of the parliamentary precinct. This left them without dedicated offices for weeks. It is all about democracy!

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister not only is misleading the parliament but also her comments are offensive, and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I will take some advice. Member, if you think the minister is misleading the House there are mechanisms to deal with that. Minister, the member has asked that you withdraw and I ask you to withdraw.

Mrs D'ATH: I withdraw. Let's take a walk down memory lane. The first thing the LNP did was throw the Labor opposition out of the parliamentary precinct.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member!

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, Minister! The member on their feet is addressing the substance of the motion. Members will respect that and listen in silence. Many of you will have the opportunity to put your own points of view.

Mrs D'ATH: This left the then opposition without dedicated offices for weeks. Then during the debate on the Appropriation Bill the then treasurer, the member for Clayfield, came into the chamber, rose to make his reply and closed down the debate. Think about how many members there were in the opposition, but they still had to guillotine the debate. This meant that a number of the then Labor opposition members were unable to have their say and make a contribution on behalf—

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: They do not want to hear it, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mrs D'ATH: In 2014, we all remember the leadership of Campbell Newman and those opposite—the member for Kawana and the member for Broadwater—who trashed the estimates process. Normally governments respect the estimates process, but when members get into opposition they all want to

complain about it. That is the normal process; we hear that. That is not the case with the LNP. The LNP complain when they are in opposition and they also pull apart the estimates system when they are in government. It is extraordinary what they did. They truncated the estimates process to run over two days. When the member for Maroochydore talks about the best practice model, is the best practice model of the LNP two days? This is so-called making sure there are free-flowing questions, ensuring there are no time constraints, recognising the importance of a unicameral parliament. They made eight opposition members cover all committees at the same time over two days.

This was not just about trying to avoid scrutiny by the opposition. This was about avoiding public transparency. It also stretched the media to try to cover every estimates process at the same time. They wanted that because who stopped the live feed from parliament? We all remember that. This was their idea of transparency under the pretence of openness and transparency. It was done to disadvantage the then opposition. I read with interest—

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Member for Maroochydore.

Mrs D'ATH: What did the worst Attorney-General in Queensland's history claim on the ABC on 3 April 2014?

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Maroochydore, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mrs D'ATH: The member for Kawana, the then attorney-general, said about forcing all of the hearings into two days, 'This is a more transparent process.' What an absolute joke.

Those opposite come in here and shed crocodile tears, 'We do not like estimates anymore. We want it changed.' Let us have a look at the actual figures and the percentage of non-government questions back to 2013. I have been advised of the figures as follows: 2013, 55 per cent; 2014, 53 per cent; 2015, 61 per cent; 2016, 61 per cent; 2017, 61 per cent; 2018, 63 per cent; 2019, 70 per cent; and 2020, 75 per cent.

This shows that under the Palaszczuk government non-government members have had more opportunity to hold the government to account by asking their questions. The facts speak for themselves. Those opposite should stop pretending that the Newman years did not happen and forgetting what they did then. They should stop with the crocodile tears. This government is more transparent than they will ever be.