



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (7.29 pm): I would like to make a few short contributions on the Industrial Relations and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, but I want to start where the member for Kawana did and say that the opposition fully supports anything that can improve workplace conditions in terms of sexual harassment. The truth is if the government was serious about that and working with us, it would never be in this bill. Let's call it for what it is: this bill is an absolute, full-throated payback for the union movement for what it has done for this government in this chamber. If they were up-front—and it is not too late—those provisions they would remove from this bill because they have no connection to the bill we are debating.

I have listened to the minister and, indeed, the previous speaker. Throughout all of it, I cannot see where there has been any defence whatsoever of giving people a choice. In the end, we will hear speaker after speaker and, for all the value of their experience in the union movement, which they will speak about, no-one will be able to explain why somebody having a choice to embark on a similar experience with a multitude of different people representing them is in any way, shape or form wrong or why it matters who represents a worker in the QIRC. No member will be capable of doing that, because the minister was not able to. I suspect it will be difficult for anyone else because, in the end, choice is something we should all get out of bed for every day. We should give every worker in this state that option.

I will make this assessment: this is not about choice, it is about payback. It is about a government doing favours in its dying days and members looking for opportunities after they leave this House. Some will leave of their own choosing, others might leave due to a forced decision, but one way or another there is a whole heap of people who are desperately conflicted in this and, as a result, this is about payback.

This government has a history when it comes to payback in this area. It has had lobbyists operating out of taxpayer-funded buildings; it has had attacks on the independent officers like the State Archivist and the Integrity Commissioner; there has been a culture of fear that has permeated through the Public Service, and Professor Coaldrake's report showed that; and they have a history when it comes to doing everything they can to ensure that their political stocks are protected. I point to the changing of our voting laws without notice or debate. I point to the changing of the donation laws to know what this government will do to create an unfair advantage for the union movement the likes of which we have never seen before in this state.

The minister spoke of the five-year review. It was a stitch-up. Be honest about it. Be up-front about it. There was no consultation, there was no communication, and the composition of that body was never going to lead to a fair and honest outcome, ever.

The vast majority of people who join a union in any profession, in any industry, do so for one reason and that is for insurance, for protection. That is the No. 1 reason. I will explain the reason why the majority of them do not join a union, and that is to contribute to political campaigns. That is not their

reason. For there to be no accountability for where money goes, quite frankly, is undemocratic. The previous speaker spoke about the need for openness and integrity. I agree. Therefore, show where the money is going. The deputy leader outlined where he believes the money is going, and it would be very important and fitting for workers, when they are scrimping and saving to find that extra bit of money to pay those dues, to know where that money is going.

In my limited remaining time, I want to refer to where the minister spoke about the minimum standards for the independent courier drivers. She said, as did the deputy leader, we are talking about the drivers for Deliveroo, Uber Eats and all manner of those things. Every one of those workers deserves to be able to do a fair and honest day's work, and we should do everything we can to ensure that is the case, but the minister said this does not affect them. Too right! It is not state legislation, it is federal legislation. What this bill is proposing is unprecedented in its stupidity in that it is asking another House to do something in order for this place to implement it. I would have thought that is well and truly putting the cart ahead of the horse.

Finally, I will make a prediction. I saw the minister rubbing her hands with glee and there were some off-putting remarks that many people who go to work and pay their union dues would be, quite frankly, embarrassed at that performance. I will make a little synopsis and a prediction. Right now behind closed doors, there will be any number of Labor members rubbing their hands with glee, saying, 'We've got away with this,' but they said the same thing about the land tax grab. On day one the shadow Treasurer called it for what it was and he called it a renters tax. It might have taken over half a year for the penny to drop, but in the end Queenslanders worked it out and saw it for what it was, and so they will with this. As every day goes by, it becomes increasingly evident this government has stopped listening; as every day goes by, it becomes increasingly evident this government is looking to pay back the people who have put them there for three long terms; and as every day goes by, Queenslanders are working out that it is time to change this government.