




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

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INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (7.58 pm): We save the best till last, Mr Deputy Speaker. I rise to support this bill on workplace sexual harassment, which is a very important part of the bill. I am sure we would have liked to have dealt with that separately, but the government in its normal fashion of hubris and arrogance has put in place a system banning unions that oppose the money cash cow of the existing union movement.

Guess how they did that? They had former Queensland state politician and attorney-general Linda Lavarch write out a prescriptive way to make it happen. That is like putting Dracula in charge of the blood bank. It was always going to have the deliberate outcome of hanging onto the unions that need protection. All of the members opposite are members of unions.

Those opposite have passed legislation in this House around local government representatives declaring material interests in matters and not being able to vote on them. They have union masters who put them in place. Tell me which member of the government does not have a material interest in voting on this particular bill? Why have they put before this House this bill to ban a reasonable alternative to unions—the so-called red unions that compete with the cash cow union movement that they all derive their jobs from? What happens in those unions? There are the fat salaries of Beth Mohle and others of \$200,000 and \$300,000. It is abhorrent to the members of those unions that that money is being siphoned off for jobs for the boys and girls and to fund political campaigns so the puppet members over there can grab a seat in the parliament.

Everyone on the other side has a material interest in this bill. Unfortunately, they are banning other unions. I have had teachers in my office complaining about the fees they have to pay for their union. The associations—a group of people—give people an alternative to the unions and their money grabbing ways. It is abhorrent that this bill that blocks democracy and freedom of choice has been put before this House. It tells us what this third-term, arrogant, smug and hubris government is doing to stay in power. They cannot stay in power on their governance of Queensland record. They know that. Debt is out of control.

They have to manipulate the system with compulsory preferential voting and their mates in the Greens party—the Labor-Greens alliance I keep referring to. They cannot get into power without that alliance. It does not matter how much they abuse them, they still love the Greens. I wonder what the AWU members opposite think about the fact that they have to rely on the Greens to stay in government.

I will oppose this bill on the basis that it denies teachers the democratic right to choice. They are in unions to protect their jobs and protect them in disputes. The alternative unions are cheaper. They are something like \$400 cheaper because the money does not go to the fat salaries for highly paid executives or towards political campaigns run by the Labor Party. This bill totally disregards the rights and privileges that this House should be delivering.

