



Speech By  
**Amy MacMahon**


**MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 November 2023

**MOTION**

**Member for South Brisbane, Finding of Contempt**

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (6.32 pm): I will not be apologising for fighting for Queenslanders. I will not be apologising for fighting to put more money in the pockets of Queenslanders than in the pockets of the gas corporations, the property developers and the big banks. I will not be apologising for trying to force property investors to put empty homes back into the rental market in the middle of one of the worst rental crises that we have seen in a generation. I will not be apologising for using every tool that we have available to us in parliament, in the community and in the media to fight for everyday Queenslanders.

I am not going to let the gas corporations win. I am not going to let the property developers win. I am not going to let the big banks win. Every Queenslanders has come to expect both Labor and the LNP to put big corporations first and everyday Queenslanders a distant last. The price gouging corporations, the CEOs and the lobbyists come first every time and everyday Queenslanders come a distant last.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I would ask for you to consider and rule on relevance. This is about the motion before the House. The member for South Brisbane seems to be using this as an opportunity to debate other matters and not the actual motion itself and the Ethics Committee report.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for South Brisbane, I am listening to your contribution. If you are able to come back to the Ethics Committee report to ensure that you are being relevant to the motion before the House.

**Dr MacMAHON:** To clarify, the Ethics Committee report deals with my tabling of three separate private members' bills: the big bank levy that would have put \$1 billion each year into the healthcare system, the empty homes levy that would have brought tens of thousands of empty homes back into the rental market and the gas levy bill that would have raised royalties on gas corporations to put \$500 in the pockets of everyday Queenslanders when they need it most. The Ethics Committee report deals with my tabling of three bills that would have directly benefited everyday Queenslanders as opposed to big corporations.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for South Brisbane, can I give you some guidance. This motion that has been put forward by the Leader of the House is related to whether the Ethics Committee findings should find you in contempt. It is not a chance to re prosecute the arguments for which you were found to be in contempt of parliament. I ask you to come back to the motion before the House.

**Dr MacMAHON:** Mr Speaker, as I have communicated—

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am not debating the topic with you, member. I am asking to you ensure that you are being directly relevant to the motion before the House as is custom in this place.

**Dr MacMAHON:** On numerous occasions the Ethics Committee has asked me to justify why I put in these bills. Is that not relevant to the debate?

**Mr SPEAKER:** It is not a debatable question. The question before the House is that the report be noted and whether you are to be found in contempt, not the reasons the Ethics Committee investigated in the first place. I am just trying to give you guidance.

**Dr MacMAHON:** The motion outlines that unless I apologise I will be banned from the precinct and I am outlining why I will not be apologising for putting Queenslanders first. I am failing to understand how this is not relevant to the content of the motion.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, you cannot use it as an opportunity to re-prosecute all of the reasons why there was a discussion by the committee in the first place. This is about whether you are found in contempt or not. You have to stick directly and be relevant to the motion before the House. I am just trying to give you that guidance. I will give you one more opportunity. If you are unable to do that I will ask you to resume your seat.

**Dr MacMAHON:** As I have communicated to the Ethics Committee on numerous occasions, I do not feel that I should be found in contempt for putting in bills that fight for Queenslanders.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for South Brisbane, this is not a question of whether you should or should not have been found in contempt. You have been found in contempt.

**Mr BERKMAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am speaking, member for Maiwar. Please resume your seat. I am trying to give guidance to the member for South Brisbane. I have been quite lenient and have given you latitude but you keep coming back to the same point. I will give you one more opportunity. I will ask you to resume your seat otherwise.

**Mr BERKMAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order goes directly to the question that is before the House right now which is whether or not this House will find the member for South Brisbane in contempt. The Ethics Committee's report that has been tabled and that is supposed to be noted in line with this motion—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, you are now arguing the point as well. That is not the motion before the House. The motion before the House is that the member be found in contempt. That is the structural essence of the motion. I cannot be any more clear. I have tried to give guidance. Member for South Brisbane, if you can be relevant to the motion before the House I would very much enjoy hearing your contribution. Otherwise I would ask you to resume your seat.

**Dr MacMAHON:** To clarify, the motion says that unless I apologise I will be found in contempt and be excluded from the precinct.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The House is the master of its own destiny. This is the motion before the House. There is always a question before the House. In this particular instance it is about that. I will now ask you to resume your seat and not contest the point with me. I can only be so clear.

Member for South Brisbane, under standing order 276, now that you have finished your contribution, you will need to remove yourself from the House so that the House can consider the matter in your absence.

*Whereupon the honourable member for South Brisbane withdrew from the chamber at 6.39 pm.*