




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 29 November 2023

MOTION

Liberal National Party, Cuts

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (4.50 pm): Here we go again. If honourable members ever needed another example of the fact that this government has stopped listening to Queenslanders, this is it. We were supposed to be debating and fighting for victims of crime at this time. Instead, that debate has been silenced and we are pursuing cheap political tricks on the part of the Palaszczuk Labor government. It sums up this government to a tee. We spoke briefly in the business program motion yesterday about how short the time for debate is on some very important bills this week, and here we are wasting 50 minutes on a cheap political trick. Nothing sums up those opposite better than that. As the Leader of the Opposition pointed out, this is not the first time they have done it. It is not the second time they have done it. It is not the third time they have done it. It is actually the fourth time in four weeks that we have had a motion of this nature.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Resume your seat, please, member for Glass House. What is your point of order, Leader of the House?

Mrs D'ATH: The member is debating the procedural motion and not the motion that is now before the House. The procedural motion has been passed. We ask that he be brought back to the motion before the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I have allowed some degree of latitude, but you would need to get to the point of demonstrating how that part of the contribution is relevant to the motion before the House.

Mr POWELL: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for your direction. As I have shared in this House, including in my maiden speech, I was a public servant. Before I get ridiculed by those opposite, let me share some of my experiences. It is one of the reasons I ended up joining the LNP. It is one of the reasons I ended up standing for the LNP. It is one of the reasons I so look forward to being a minister in an LNP government. Why? Because numerous times—time after time—I would turn up at work and if I had anything to do at all it would often be a brief. I would provide that brief to the relevant authority, the minister at the time, and then I would sit there and wait for an answer.

A couple of weeks later along would come a consultant and ask me questions that sounded awfully familiar to the brief that I provided several weeks before. The consultant would go away and next we would see this report prepared that looked eerily similar to the brief I had provided the minister about a month or two earlier. The governments would continue to waste taxpayers' money getting consultants to write reports that the Public Service, who wanted to serve as frank and fearless servants of their ministers, were writing anyway.

I am so pleased to see that one of the announcements my leader made at his Media Club presentation last week was that, as part of any consultancy that a future LNP government would undertake, they must also ensure there is an opportunity to upskill and provide training to the Public Service. That is why we hire public servants: to provide that frank and fearless advice. If they cannot provide that frank and fearless advice because they are running off to a consultant every time, what is the purpose of the work they are doing?

The other thing I am really impressed in seeing is the corporate graduate program. As a product of a graduate program myself, I know that we will attract the best and brightest under an LNP government. The only way to achieve that is to show Labor the door in '24.

(Time expired)