




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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CHILD PROTECTION (OFFENDER REPORTING AND OFFENDER PROHIBITION ORDER) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.29 pm): What a disgrace we have seen unfold in the Queensland parliament today. We have a Premier who said she was elected on accountability and transparency. I say this to the Premier: most Queenslanders say they 'wake up with Today', but after the Premier's performance on the *Today* show, I do not reckon she will be going on there much longer. Do you know what she said? 'You know me, Karl.' I say to the Premier, 'Yes, we do.' What just happened in this House is what has become of this Premier: arrogant, out of touch, part-time, more interested in the red carpet, running from public scrutiny, afraid of public scrutiny—

Mr Minnikin: Afraid to meet people.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. She is absolutely afraid to meet people. She refused to go out yesterday and speak to the crime victims and she refused to send any Labor Party members out to listen to the victims of crime. We saw four members of crime victim families given an opportunity to meet with various ministers, but not the Premier, and then just after that they selected one individual victim of crime and secretly whisked him out of that meeting and took him into another meeting, leaving his teenage girls outside with the rest of the crime victims. That is how the Premier treated the crime victims yesterday. They took Mr Lovell secretly through the corridor to get a surprise meeting, where he had no idea where he was being taken. His daughters were forced to stay outside while the Premier had her audience. That is what it was about—so that the Premier could tick a box so she could come in here today and say, 'I met with a victim of crime.'

Mr Krause: A victim.

Mr Minnikin: Just one.

Mr BLEIJIE: One victim, a victim, when the other three who had just met with the ministers were denied that opportunity. I am proud, with our leader, David Crisafulli, that half of our team yesterday went out and listened to the victims of crime, listened to these issues. When these four victims of crime met with the police minister, did he have the courage to tell them that in a little over an hour's time he was going to be rushing through amendments to this bill—57 pages of amendments to this bill—without any consultation, weakening laws in this state, weakening criminal laws in this state? No, I bet he did not have the heart to tell them that. Just like he used the Pullen family as political pawns in his political exercise, they were used yesterday for exactly the same purpose.

If you look at the police minister's commentary just before he disgracefully moved the motion be put, he said, 'Oh, it is just technical.' These are the amendments—57 pages. How many pages is the bill we are debating? It is 48 pages. The amendments are bigger than the bill itself. The amendments are 57 pages, and this minister would have people believe that they are just technical in nature. He has become an absolute joke of a minister.

He talked this morning about the Ekka and firefighters. I tell you what the firefighters were telling us as we walked around the Ekka. We did have a stand at the Ekka and, my gosh, the people of Queensland were speaking to us at that stand. Crime was one of the biggest issues raised. The Labor Party did not have a stand. We were there listening. Our members went and listened to the members of the community. They said crime is one of the biggest issues that they are facing. The firefighters that were all around the Ekka selling their calendars, one of which the member for Nanango bought—

Mrs Frecklington: I buy one every year!

Mr BLEIJIE:—all for good charity! They were telling us what they think about their Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, and it was not good. The minister comes in here and says these are just technical in nature. They are not. These are substantive amendments. The reason we are raising these issues is that the Premier has changed. The Premier has made speech after speech in this place about accountability, integrity and the committee process. Hasn't she trashed the committee process? Hasn't she trashed the estimates process? You know what? Just as the opposition, Queenslanders and the media were finding out about these substantial amendments when they were tabled yesterday, so too was the Labor Party backbench. You could see across their faces that they had no idea. They had no idea that this was coming. The minister says some of these are urgent amendments. These are substantive. These have gone through cabinet. A minister would have prepared an authority to prepare. A minister would have prepared the authority to introduce. The minister before that would have had a policy decision for the government. This was not urgent legislation drafted overnight; this has been on the books for some time.

The Premier was at the Bush Summit and knows the issues with respect to Glenden. I know we have expressed our concerns about the rush of this legislation and typically the Labor Party would have everyone believe, including those in the gallery, that we are not supporting the issues in Glenden. Rubbish! Nothing could be further from the truth. You still need transparency around decision-making. The Premier was at the Bush Summit and said she was going to introduce legislation to deal with that very important topic. This is not legislation. This is an amendment to legislation. The minister responsible for this issue introduced his own bill in parliament this week. He could have introduced it in that bill.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: He could have introduced it in his own bill yesterday. I take the interjection. No! Rush it through. The question is: what are the unintended consequences of this urgency? The Treasurer might smirk and grin over there. The Labor Party might say, 'Oh, no, there will be no unintended consequences.' Really? Explain that to the previous housing minister who only a couple of months ago rushed in housing amendments and now is consulting with the community on how to fix their rushed housing legislation.

Nothing goes to the chaos and crisis of this government more than this parliamentary sitting, this bill, these amendments. It absolutely shows the chaos and crisis of the Palaszczuk government. They have stopped listening. They have given up on listening. They have given up on the Premier's rhetoric of transparency and accountability. They introduced the Human Rights Act as this groundbreaking, world-leading legislation. Now they are just happy to trash it. Trash it! Don't worry about the human rights legislation. Don't worry about it! It has gone! Why has it gone? It has gone for political opportunity. Why has it gone? It has gone because of the failures of the minister for corrections and the plethora of youth justice ministers to manage capacity in our youth detention centres. They are full.

Here is the question to the government now: is the Caloundra watch house, which was turned into a youth detention centre then turned back into a watch house, now again a youth detention centre? This is about the member for Caloundra never resiling from the fact that he wants to turn the Caloundra watch house into a youth detention centre. He now has his wish because of this legislation and these amendments. They will now use the watch house in Caloundra as their detention centre which is what he wanted all along. The government spent a million dollars on that Caloundra watch house, turning it into a youth detention centre, with the fences, the barbed wire, all the orders sitting out the back and the air-conditioners sitting out the back. It has sat vacant now for a year. After a million dollars of expenditure, it has sat there for a year now, not being used as a watch house and not even being used as a detention centre. What will it be now? It will be a youth detention centre in the heart of Caloundra. The member for Ninderry, other MPs on the Sunshine Coast and I will raise this issue again and hold the member for Caloundra to account because he has misled his community.

The other thing the Minister for Police says is that it is just a technicality. So much of this legislation that we are debating today is due to errors of the government, rushing things and stuffing things up. That is the reality of this. We are constantly now called back to parliament to fix their errors because they have lost their way. They are so chaotic and crisis driven, they have lost their way. The

government have no clear vision for Queensland anymore. The Premier has checked out at 100 miles an hour. She has absolutely checked out. Her backbenchers have checked out as well. There is no faith in the backbench, in all the ministers, in the Premier or in the incompetent Treasurer who is fighting every investment opportunity in Queensland at the moment. Investment will be driven away because of the Labor government. We have more victims of crime because of the Labor government. Nothing the Labor Party will do will stop the LNP raising these issues because the Labor Party have given up on democracy in 2023.