




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 24 August 2023

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

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.51 am): I speak against the motion before the House. In doing so, I have to point out the hypocrisy of the statements made by the Manager of Opposition Business. He has no excuse for that hypocrisy because he was part of the Newman government and is absolutely aware—

Mr Powell: Queenslanders got rid of that government.

Mrs D'ATH: I will take that interjection which was that Queensland got rid of that government.

Mr Powell: They did.

Mrs D'ATH: I am going to take that interjection. The Manager of Opposition Business said, 'Yes, and Queenslanders got rid of that government'—and they did, rightly so. I believe what the member is now inferring is that he agrees that they were a bad government and that they should never have done what they did when it comes to pushing laws through. I am assuming that is what that member is saying. I find that quite extraordinary—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Walker): Pause the clock. Leader of the House, take your seat. I caution members. I have a list of members who are already on a warning. Those members are: Southern Downs, Mudgeeraba, Kawana, Nanango, Toowoomba South, Callide, Toowoomba North, Whitsunday, Everton, Currumbin, Maiwar and South Brisbane. Members, be mindful of those warnings as we move forward.

Mrs D'ATH: We can only infer from the statements that have been made by the Manager of Opposition Business—whether he is speaking for himself or on behalf of the LNP opposition—that he now believes these practices are not appropriate and that is part of the reason they lost government. The reality is that they have never said that. In the eight years since they lost government have they ever acknowledged that ramming through laws the way they did contributed to them losing government? If they did feel that way, why then did they in opposition post 2015 bring in a bill and, with the support of the crossbench, move a motion to declare urgent the bill which changed the membership of the parliament—the number of seats across Queensland—from 89 to 93? They did this without any voice being given to the people of Queensland on whether we should increase the number of seats in this parliament at significant expense. They did not allow the public to have a say because they moved to declare the bill urgent. I am sure those opposite remember that.

It has been a little while since they told me how long we debated the amendment that we moved on compulsory preferential voting. They do like to quote that—

An opposition member: Eighteen minutes.

Mrs D'ATH: Eighteen minutes; there we go. They remember that, but they forget that the reason we were able to do that is that they brought in a private member's bill and moved that the bill be declared urgent so that it bypassed the committee process completely. The Manager of Opposition Business cannot say that they learnt their lesson by losing government and that they would never do that again because the evidence shows they have done it since.

I want to go back and remind them what they did in government. The LNP bypassed the committee process entirely on key bills, including their antibikie laws that had to be redrafted. The Vicious Lawlessness Association Disestablishment Bill 2013—we all remember the VLAD Bill—passed on the same day it was introduced. Their watering down of workers compensation rights—the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013—passed two days after introduction. Their legislation reducing the rights of same-sex couples—the Civil Partnerships and Other Legislation Amendment Bill—passed the day after introduction.

On coming into government the LNP announced that—they did not just do this on the spur of the moment—their election policies should bypass the committee process. Campbell Newman announced that they would regularly bypass the committee process. The LNP bypassed the committee process on the antibikie VLAD laws and then they had to fix drafting errors. The LNP moved the following amendments in consideration in detail—bypassing the committee process: the removal of employment protections for public servants and the independence of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission to prepare for the mass sacking of 14,000 workers; sacking the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee in the dead of night because they did not like what it was uncovering; and changing the law for LNP donor Karreman Quarries to cover activity that breached the law.

What did Tony Fitzgerald end up saying about the LNP by the end of their term? He said—

During its brief term in power, the present government treated the community with contempt. From behind a populist facade, it engaged in nepotism, sacked, stacked and otherwise reduced the effectiveness of parliamentary committees, subverted and weakened the state's anticorruption commission, made unprecedented attacks on the courts and the judiciary, appointed a totally unsuitable chief justice, reverted to selecting male judges almost exclusively and, from a position of lofty ignorance, dismissed its critics for their effrontery.

For all of those reasons, the motion that is before us today cannot be taken seriously and should be voted down by this House.