




Speech By
Bryson Head

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

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**BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS AND
OTHER LEGISLATION BILL**

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (11.07 pm): Mr Speaker, I want to congratulate you on your appointment. I know that you have been a fantastic parliamentarian and will make a fantastic Speaker. Welcome back to everyone in this House. I have just had my first general election, having first been elected in a by-election. It is great to see so many new faces here in the parliament. I congratulate all of the members so far on fantastic maiden speeches and, of course, the fantastic Central Queensland team we now have. I have previously commented about it being a little lonely in Central Queensland at the top end of my electorate, but now there are three great LNP members who will serve their communities well.

I note that the members of the opposition are criticising us about the time and that we will be voting on this legislation tonight. Ironically, when Labor wanted to guillotine debate, they pulled up stumps before dinner. Here we are late at night.

Ms Camm: Every week.

Mr HEAD: I take that interjection. Every sitting week they pulled up stumps at dinner and guillotined debate on many occasions and on a number of occasions also rammed through legislation, but the LNP want to give as much opportunity as practical and possible. That is why we are sitting here late at night. We are not afraid to work hard for Queenslanders.

I move to the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Those opposite had 1,200 days to get a decent plan to take forward for Queensland for the Olympics. As a regional and rural member, I certainly have a lot of constituents who are not a big fan of the Olympics. When they come to me with those concerns I say to them that I personally do not oppose infrastructure developments in other parts of the state because I would expect that when I bring forward reasonable requests for infrastructure in my electorate other members in the House will not stand in the way of those investments as well. When you are building legacy infrastructure that is value for money, Queensland can go a long way with that investment.

When the games were announced, those opposite had an idea about rebuilding the Gabba. However, that was not so popular so the former premier, Steven Miles, then announced the Quirk review. As my colleagues have already been talking about tonight, when the former premier realised he was not going to like the outcome of that particular review, he then decided to have yet another review to come up with what he wanted, being QSAC, and we all know that is going to be a horrible idea. What we need in Queensland is legacy infrastructure that provides bang for buck.

Importantly, the LNP is the government for all of Queensland. That is why with this bill we will ensure that the new board authority will have at least one regional representative sitting on it. That is an amendment we actually moved in the previous parliament, and Labor voted against it. Labor voted against having a regional rep sitting on the Olympic Games infrastructure delivery authority because Labor were not interested in ensuring that regional Queensland had a voice on that authority.

Further to that, we are ensuring that Queenslanders can have their say through the 100-day review that this bill implements. This is important because the LNP listens to Queenslanders. Importantly as well, the LNP backs in our local sports clubs. As part of our election commitments, we committed to a \$250 million package to help grassroots clubs grow our next generation of sports stars. I have a couple of great clubs in Callide that will benefit from our investment in their infrastructure, such as the Gin Gin sportsgrounds. A number of great community groups operate out of those grounds. The member for Chatsworth was with me in Gin Gin recently for a fantastic afternoon with the club. It is a fantastic little community. The Calliope Football Club will also benefit from investment in infrastructure by the LNP.

These are some of the key community groups that will benefit from the Olympics coming to Queensland because the LNP is a government for all of Queensland and we will ensure that rural and regional communities benefit. There are far too many clubs in Callide to count and name, but they will benefit from a regionally focused games. Who knows, there might be a few great Olympians coming from the electorate of Callide. I dare say I have missed my chance, but you never know. Meanwhile, Labor have wasted years. The clock has been ticking down and we have practically nothing to show for it.

I move to another part of the bill with regard to the workplace health and safety amendments. The LNP has supported and always will support strong safety laws and good safety outcomes for Queenslanders. I did not quite know where the member for McConnel was going with her speech, but it seemed to be that she was suggesting that deaths tend to only happen because of an LNP government. Unfortunately, deaths tragically have happened throughout Queensland far too often under consecutive governments. I am personally committed and I know that the LNP are committed to this, and I know that all members of this House do not want to see more tragic deaths happen on construction sites.

This legislation does not impact the authority of the Office of Industrial Relations. Those opposite are saying that this is going to take us back in time and all the rest, but that is simply not true. Further, workers still have the right to stop work if they do not think a job is safe. I say that to all the workers in Queensland. If they are about to do a job and they think it is not safe, they still have every right to stop work and report that through the appropriate channels. I encourage them to do that if they are about to do a job and they believe it is not safe. What this bill does is ensure the CFMEU stops holding Queenslanders to ransom. The CFMEU—

Mr Stevens: Thugs.

Mr HEAD: I take that interjection. They are thugs, and they hold Queenslanders and small businesses to ransom. They dictate, as we heard earlier, which concreters get the job and which subbies get the job. If they do not like what is happening on a particular site, they abuse their powers to hold that site, and in turn the Queensland taxpayer, to ransom. The 24-hour notice provision importantly aligns with the Fair Work Act, which is, as many people would know, an old Labor trademark bill. Labor are saying that it is not a fit-for-purpose provision to have, yet their federal colleagues certainly have not done anything about it in the few years they have been in government. I would ask why they have not done so if it is such an important clause.

I have been in this House for only a couple of years. On several occasions, Labor have voted against workers' rights in this parliament in the pursuit of protecting the unions that run campaigns for them, that donate to them and that run protection rackets for them. When it comes to workers' rights in Queensland, Labor will get up and carry on about it but we have seen bills that have consolidated union power to ensure that the likes of the QNMU and the Queensland Teachers' Union have full authority and there is no competition in that space. It is a disgrace because it means that teachers and hardworking nurses are forced to pay a union fee—

Mr McCALLUM: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member's contribution is straying outside the long title of the bill. He is talking about teachers and nurses. I ask that the contribution be brought back within the long title of the bill.

Mr SPEAKER: This is a very broad-ranging omnibus bill. I would encourage the member to stay within the long title of the bill. I am listening carefully.

Mr HEAD: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Speaker. I also want to ensure that nurses and teachers have a safe workplace when they are working hard to serve Queenslanders. Labor have voted against workers' rights when it suits them, especially when it is defending the unions, supporting the unions and lining the pockets of the unions that actively campaign for the Labor movement.

We have heard that there was no consultation on this bill. However, I actually sat on the committee recently where there was consultation with regard to videoing and photographing worksites. I will read from the transcript of the inquiry into the Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill where the Queensland Law Society raised concerns about the provision that Labor only recently brought in. There has been consultation previously, and we picked up that consultation and decided to scrap something that was suggested to be bad in the first place. I quote from the Queensland Law Society—

While QLS considers there is some utility in allowing those people to take photos and videos, there are significant risks of misuse, whether intended or otherwise, and we do not consider the bill or the current provisions of the act have addressed those.

Further—

Our concern is the risks with videos and images taken on a personal phone and the privacy concerns that we are becoming more alive to as technology grows. There have been a number of privacy reviews and other inquiries that are really trying to rein in what is out there. Our concern is that the existing provisions do not address the risks.

The Queensland Law Society raised significant concerns about some of the provisions in this bill that were meant to come in at the start of next year, and that is one of the many reasons that tonight we are repealing it before it gets enacted. There is some consultation for the House.

With regard to the Planning Act, the LNP wants to have a good relationship with local government. Local government exists to ensure that, where possible and where practical, a lot more local decisions can be made, because the closer you are to the ground often the better decisions you make. What we saw from those councils was a government that would turn up and overrule decisions in some instances where councils had unanimously voted against projects. The previous government would overrule those decisions even though there had been significant community concern about the lack of infrastructure the particular developments would bring, the bottlenecking of suburbs and communities and the fact that they were not being set up properly to see those housing developments get off the ground. These provisions give power back to local government, and the LNP is not afraid to ensure local government is respected in this state. In turn, because local government will be in power through these provisions, this will help address the housing crisis, importantly, without lumping these communities with the burden of poor planning.

Briefly, I will touch on the Path to Treaty Act. We do listen to Queenslanders. In Callide, there was an 87 per cent no vote in the referendum last year, the highest no vote of any electorate in Queensland and likely the highest no vote of any state electorate in the country. When we listen to Queenslanders, we say what we are going to do and we go through and do it. We did say that we would repeal this legislation. The treaty process is clearly divisive to the people of Callide, and that is why I am happy to stand here today as part of the LNP team to address this issue. Tonight we will follow through with what we said we would do. Importantly, the money saved by this can instead go to assisting communities—and I have Indigenous communities in Callide—where we can direct that money into improving tangible outcomes for the communities that deserve it. The LNP will treat all Queenslanders equally and we will not divide our state. This is something I have not said in this House before: I commend the bill to the House.