




Speech By
Lance McCallum

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

Record of Proceedings, 28 November 2024

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

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (8.40 pm): It did not take long. With the very first bill to be debated under the LNP government we see the masks that they have been presenting to Queenslanders fall. They have revealed their true selves, laid out in this parliament for every single Queenslanders to see. It is cruel, it is mean spirited and it is grotesque. The process by which this bill has been brought forward for debate today is a trashing of the democratic law-making process that exists here in the Queensland parliament. Gaggling debate on the motion around whether or not this bill should be declared urgent was absolutely shameful. This is a heartless action by a gutless government that has no respect for this parliament or its processes or the proper scrutiny that should be afforded under our democratic process. It has denied Queenslanders and stakeholders the opportunity to have their say on the bill that has been brought before this House, whether it is on important issues like the Olympics, watering down work health and safety laws or the Path to Treaty Act. Just like those opposite guillotined debate earlier today, Queenslanders will not have the opportunity to have their voices heard when it comes to the matters that are contained in this bill.

Those opposite can bleat on and on about a mandate, but the fact is that their little brochure that they took around and waved in front of the TV cameras did not have any of this in it. It did not say anything about trashing the processes of bringing forward bills for debate into this House. I am glad to see that one of the new members thinks that it is hilarious. They have been here for five seconds. Yes, get your laugh on. There were no details in their plan about how they were going to do it. Whenever there was a question that their leader did not like they said, 'It is not part of our plan.' We have seen their true colours with this bill. The fact is that they have absolutely no mandate to come forward and trash the processes of this parliament in the way that they have done today.

With respect to the Olympics, the days are counting down as they head towards 100 days when they are going to solve the issues that we have around the Olympics. The big solution in this bill is to rebadge and rename an existing Olympic authority that the Labor government brought forward. Also contained within the bill is legislation that will make our workplaces more dangerous. Those opposite are watering down laws to make already dangerous workplaces even more dangerous for workers. It is an absolute disgrace. It is not born out of any kind of considered reform. It is not born out of any kind of evidence. It is complete ideology. It is an attack on workers. This is the LNP reverting to type.

This bill repeals the Path to Treaty Act. The now Premier said at the time that this will be done with dignity and respect, but what has been delivered is brutality and disdain. That is all that has been delivered by the LNP today when it comes to the repeal of the Path to Treaty Act. It was done in a very deliberate and calculated way to inflict maximum damage. The chair of the independent statutory inquiry, who had been reaching out repeatedly to try to establish a dialogue with the Premier, the Deputy

Premier and the responsible minister, was met with silence. Just as this bill was introduced and the gagging motion came, that is when the letter arrived via email. Those opposite could not even pick up the phone. They did not have the guts, the fortitude, the ticker, to pick up the phone.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order relates to unparliamentary language. I would ask that the member withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): I did not hear any unparliamentary language. However, if it is possible that you said something, I would ask that you withdraw.

Mr McCALLUM: Thank you, Deputy Speaker, for your advice and direction. I withdraw if I said anything that was unparliamentary. As I was saying, those opposite did not have the intestinal fortitude, did not have the ticker, to pick up the phone. This is a government that has promised to support and help First Nations Queenslanders, but on day one in this parliament this is a government that has delivered an absolute kick right to the abdomen of First Nations Queenslanders. Today's events have shown that this government, the same government that said that there would be dignity and respect, is as hollow as the words that were spoken.

This is not what Queenslanders were promised. It is not what Premier Crisafulli said he would be delivering and it is not the values that he said he would lead by. When the Path to Treaty Bill was debated in the last parliament, the member for Algeester quoted the member for Broadwater and now Premier. He said—

I believe in truth-telling, and to me that means telling it like it is. We need to be up-front. We cannot shy away from the real experiences of Indigenous Australians throughout history. We must tell the truth about the real challenges they are facing today.

...

Down one well-travelled path lies a discussion had for political purposes. It talks a big game but achieves little for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people—a path where political battlelines are drawn but ultimately ends with a decade wasted and no progress made. Down the other path is a treaty.

Those words are as meaningless as the words that he spoke when he said that he would be dealing with the Path to Treaty and the truth-telling inquiry with dignity and respect. They are as meaningless as the words of the member for Surfers Paradise and now education minister when, during that debate, he said—

I urge all members of this House to work towards a future where Indigenous peoples in Queensland are recognised as equal partners, their voices are heard and their rights are respected. Let us take this important step towards reconciliation and build a brighter future for all Queenslanders.

Once again, those are hollow words.

My question to the LNP government is: what are you afraid of when it comes to a conversation? What can possibly be the problem when it comes to a dialogue and consultation? That happens all the time, even on bills, although it will not happen on this one because it has been guillotined by the LNP. Why are they so afraid of the truth?

In the short time since this bill was introduced into the parliament earlier today, like many members on this side of the House I have been contacted by upset, angry, outraged and confused Queenslanders who want to know how a government can trash proper processes and do what this government is doing on this the very first full sitting day of parliament. They are people from all kinds of backgrounds. Queensland Churches Together have put out a joint statement calling on the government—urging the government and asking the government—to continue with the inquiry. Once again, that has fallen on deaf ears and the government has steamrolled ahead with trashing the process and repealing the bill.

I would urge the government to continue with the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry. We know that there will be Indigenous communities that will push ahead anyway, but the government will not continue. This parliament is the poorer, this state is the poorer and it is an incredible shame. It is beyond regrettable. It is beyond unbecoming conduct of a government in this great state of Queensland, let alone a government that has only been a government for 30 days. Let us be clear that, for this government, ramming through this bill to repeal treaty, weaken workplace health and safety laws, rebadge an Olympics authority and deal with the Public Service Commission is more urgent than their community safety laws. That is a fact. When it comes to repealing the Path to Treaty in this state, this is an unprecedented attack on a statutorily independent inquiry by a government for purely political purposes. Those on the opposite side of this House will be judged by history and they will be condemned for this.

I conclude my contribution by speaking to all Queenslanders including First Nations Queenslanders and allies of First Nations Queenslanders. I say that it does not have to be this way. There is a party in this place that will respectfully stand shoulder to shoulder with First Nations people. We will work in genuine collaboration and have a genuine conversation so that we can work together and move forward towards a reconciled Queensland, because that is what we all want. The only thing that is being achieved here today is the ripping away of an opportunity to take meaningful action towards that. It has been ripped away with cruelty, in a calculated and deliberate way, by a government that today has revealed at the first opportunity its very grotesque and mean-spirited heart.