




Speech By
Shane King

MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH

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MOTIONS

Labor Party, Together Union

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (6.03 pm): I feel like I have sat through a verbal assault rather than a speech. Thank you for that, member for Buderim. I might have to put in a workplace health and safety claim for tinnitus after sitting over here for a while.

I have been here a little while now but I always thought that union bashing day was Thursday. You got us a day early. Once again, they have come into this place attacking unions and by extension their workers. In my experience, the other side have never met a public servant they did not want to sack. In attacking the very union that represents public servants and their interests, they have attacked thousands and thousands of public sector workers. Funnily enough, that union's colour is purple. I am not shying away from my union, my union's colours or the Labor brand for that matter. I will still drive my red car around. Don't worry, I am not getting it painted purple just yet. I had a purple car once—just saying. I have had a few purple cars—I realised that as I said it—and they were beautiful too. They were all V8s.

This is about attacking unions, so I would like to talk about attacks on unions and particularly why the Together union would be involved in a cost-of-living campaign. They would be concerned because when the LNP were last in power they sacked 14,000 members of unions, and they would have had a real cost-of-living worry with no jobs. They told them they had nothing to fear and sacked them. My wife was part of that, so that is part of the reason I am here. It was a difficult time for everyone. There has never been an apology in any way, shape or form that I have seen. They stripped away May Day, which Together union members would be fearing, I am sure. They cut penalty rates. They introduced laws to stop the democratic rights of unions to campaign on political issues—laws they had to repeal because they were unconstitutional. They never shied away from their plans to sell assets, and that is the other reason I am here. The electricity industry will always be in public hands.

Even in opposition they have not learned a single thing. They voted against labour hire licensing laws, voted against paid domestic and family violence leave and voted against industrial manslaughter laws. Who could do that? The Together union obviously would be worried about that as well. If you injure a worker or kill a worker, you should be held responsible for that, and to vote against that is abhorrent.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member, I would ask you to come back to the motion or the amendment.

Mr KING: I will. I will talk about the Together union and the wonderful members they represent and about other unions like the Teachers' Union and the nurses union. We hear a lot about the fake unions and structure; there is no structure in the fake unions. In my union and other unions, people come up through the ranks. You get a tradie who ends up being the leader and organises—

Mr MICKELBERG: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I seek your guidance. Is the member anticipating debate with respect to the workplace health and safety bill that is before the House that directly addresses this issue?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice. Thank you, member for Buderim, for your point of order. I will listen carefully. Please be aware that there is a bill that deals with matters in relation to workplace health and safety. There has been a wideranging debate in that second reading debate in relation to unions. If your contribution can stay away from that bill, I will allow you to continue in that vein.

Mr KING: I certainly will continue but I will move on to talk about cost of living. The Leader of the Opposition will short-change Queenslanders. He will rip out cost-of-living support that the Miles government has already delivered thanks to our progressive coal royalties. I know that those opposite love talking about progressive coal royalties. They paid for free kindy, massive energy rebates, free TAFE and rego freezes. We are doing everything we can to lower household bills and we know that it will all be at risk under an LNP government and the short-sightedness of the Leader of the Opposition. Last time, as I said, they sacked 14,000 public servants. We know they will have to sack even more with the Olympic-sized black hole they have got.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, you need to come back to the motion or the amendment.

Mr KING: Mr Deputy Speaker, this motion is about a cost-of-living campaign that they are saying the Together union is running, so I was just talking about the cost of living that we are trying to address as a government. We are giving \$550 in a cost-of-living rebate on electricity bills for all Queensland households, and I am sure Together union members are not worried about that. We have free kindy for all four-year-olds from next year, saving thousands of families up to \$4,600, and I am sure Together union members are not worried about that. They are more worried about an LNP government. They are worried about having jobs if an LNP government gets in, and that is what this is all about.