




Speech By
Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR HILL

Record of Proceedings, 17 April 2024

MOTION

Postal Voting, Privacy

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (4.39 pm): I fully support the motion moved by the member for Noosa. It is all about honesty and integrity. It is very important for the Queensland parliament to acknowledge this because we do not see this happen too often in this parliament. The motion reads—

(b) when Queenslanders respond to an offer—

in the letterbox or elsewhere—

to apply for postal voting, they expect this will go direct to the Electoral Commission of Queensland;

It does not go directly to the Electoral Commission of Queensland if it is not sent out by the Electoral Commission. Further, the current practice utilising a generic reply paid return address, postal box or similar by political parties and MPs is inappropriate as it does not reveal that the information may be collected by others prior to being forwarded to the Electoral Commission. I will state that again: the current practice utilising a generic reply paid return address, postal box or similar by a political party and MPs is inappropriate as it does not reveal that this information may be collected by others prior to being forwarded to the Electoral Commission. I have never heard of anything like that. Only here in Queensland can someone receive a postal vote application to send back to the Electoral Commission that goes through the hands of three or four others.

Elections are not a great time for people because they are bombarded with advertisements, billboards, radio, TV ads and corflutes for at least four weeks. All we hear is the major parties telling us how wonderful they are, to vote for them and how we will virtually never go hungry again. People are sick of the propaganda. Then, all of a sudden, an old lady wants a postal vote because she is going away across the border. The next minute she receives a postal vote application form in the mail. She says, 'You beauty.' She fills it in. It has a reply paid address and she fills out all the details. It detours and goes through the hands of others. The next minute that old lady is flooded with party literature. She believes that is going to the Electoral Commission. Sometimes, because it goes through the hands of others, it is delayed and it ends up in the person's letterbox after they have gone away and they miss out. It should come straight from the Electoral Commission and go straight back to the Electoral Commission.

The second part of the motion—and I fully agreed with this—states—

... calls on the government to:

(a) put forward, before the state election, amendments to the Queensland Electoral Act 1992 such that postal vote applications must be sent directly to the Queensland Electoral Commission's nominated addresses;

That is a simple motion. It continues—

... calls on both sides of this House to support ending current practice and commit to amending the Queensland Electoral Act 1992 such that postal vote applications must be sent directly to the Queensland Electoral Commission's nominated addresses.

They should not all go all over the place or into the hands of two or three other people. I commend this motion to the House.