




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 28 November 2024

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

 **Ms FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (10.59 pm): Today is a sad day for Queensland. It is a sad day for Queensland because it is a stark indication of what is to come over the next four years. The Premier has today decided to rush through a bill that strips workers of their rights and axes the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry with no consultation, with no respect and certainly with no decency. We should not be surprised when it comes to the LNP stripping away workers' rights and ensuring that there is no transparency and consultation with the community. The rights of workers and the rights of First Nations Queenslanders have never mattered to the LNP and they have never mattered to this Premier.

There has still not been throughout the course of what is a very short, rushed debate any explanation for why this bill is urgent. Not one member of the government has stood in this place and explained why this bill was urgent. There is still absolutely no rationale for why this is urgent. When asked what the biggest lesson the Premier had taken away from his time in the Newman government, he said, 'The biggest lesson is that you've got to treat people with compassion.' I would argue that the introduction of this bill in this manner not only illustrates that the Premier has learnt absolutely nothing but also indicates that his time in power will be more like his predecessor's than he would like to admit. Welcome to Newman 2.0.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Silence.

Ms FENTIMAN: Treating people with compassion means including them in the conversation, but that is not a right that has been afforded to workers. It is not a right that has been afforded to First Nations Queenslanders. This bill is a testament to the Premier's true character. The Premier has used his first day of parliament to trash his own word and to take healing opportunities away from First Nations people by scrapping the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry.

When the Premier, David Crisafulli, said that this matter would be handled with respect and dignity, he has clearly misled the people of Queensland. He has clearly misled the members of the inquiry. He has misled First Nations people. He has misled elders and traditional owners. He has misled the entire Queensland community.

The Premier said he did not want to make this a divisive issue. He said he did not want to cause angst, yet his actions would indicate the exact opposite. To push through a piece of legislation in one day in a five minutes to midnight session on the very first day not only is unprecedented but also goes against the very parliamentary process that the Premier and his government chose to lecture others on during their time in opposition.

There is no respect and there is no decency in any of this. Not only that, but the LNP have decided to do this whilst the Eric Deeral Indigenous Youth Parliament members are here sitting in this place. It is a disgrace, and my heart is with those young people who have had to bear witness to a shameful

display of disrespect and disregard. Just this afternoon I had the opportunity to speak with Ngara, one of the wonderful Indigenous Youth Parliament members, who shared her pain with me over the introduction of this legislation in this manner. She is not alone in her pain. We will stand with her and with all first peoples in solidarity against this harmful and divisive bill.

The Premier said in his own words that ‘we need to do more for Indigenous communities’, yet he seemingly cannot afford First Nations elders the opportunity to speak or appear before a parliamentary committee on this important matter before it is rushed through the parliament. ‘We need to do more for Indigenous communities’, he said, but he could not even pick up the phone to Joshua Creamer, the chair of the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry, to offer him the respect and decency of a conversation before announcing his plans to the media. Mr Creamer said today, ‘They strung us along, suggesting that they were undertaking getting advice and that we were going to meet after they received that advice, but they introduced this bill. They sneaked it through the back door.’ I am deeply ashamed that our state’s new leader can be so disrespectful and manipulative about something as important and as critical as this.

Just today at the front gates of Parliament House there was a Red Rose Rally to honour those whose lives had been claimed by family and domestic violence. We listened to Aunty Edwina, a proud First Nations elder, who shared her story with us and the goals of her organisation, Strong Women Talking. Members of this House stood there and listened to Aunty Edwina as she talked about how First Nations women are disproportionately affected by family and domestic violence, amongst many other issues—the result of systemic failures that have left them disadvantaged and unrepresented. How can we expect to close the gap if we are not prepared to even listen to the stories of those like Aunty Edwina?

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Currumbin, you will be warned. Another outburst like that and you will be warned.

Ms FENTIMAN: How can we expect to achieve reconciliation if we are not prepared to hear Aunty Edwina’s truth and elders—

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Southport, you will be warned if I hear your voice again.

Ms FENTIMAN:—like Aunty Edwina who have important stories to share? It is incumbent on all of us in this place to listen to their truth. The utter disrespect that this legislation represents is exactly why Premier David Crisafulli and this new LNP government cannot be trusted. Unless we have completely different definitions of what respect means, today proves the Premier’s word is worth nothing. This has been a test of David Crisafulli’s leadership—a test he has failed.