




Speech By
Tom Smith

MEMBER FOR BUNDABERG

Record of Proceedings, 18 April 2024

**AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT
BILL**

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (4.45 pm): I am very keen to speak on this bill on which the committee has put in some great work. I need to reflect on the member for Gympie's contribution because for about 3½ years he has been trying to land a psychological blow on me. He thought today in his speech that he had done it. I do not want to—

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Members, it is getting a little bit too rowdy in here. I ask everyone to keep it down.

Mr SMITH: I do not want to say it is common practice for the member for Gympie to go off early, but let us look at what he said. The member for Gympie was drawing a parallel to my comments in one of the hearings about whether onboard cameras are akin to CCTV cameras at our electorate offices. The member for Gympie suggested that that was a ridiculous notion because the cameras point outside and do not point into our offices. I have news for the member for Gympie because last year the Clerk had cameras installed to look into electorate offices to keep our staff safe from constituents who may become violent. I suggest that next time the member for Gympie is sitting at his desk signing some forms he look up. Let us just pray that he has his shirt on at the time, otherwise there might be a few surprises on that CCTV footage. Unlucky, member for Gympie. Have a look up and make sure you see the camera and keep your shirt on. That is a little bit of advice for everyone!

I hope that the member for Gympie reflects on my comments around the comparison between the onboard monitoring cameras and CCTV footage. The member might note that it was my questioning and my comments that ensured we knew that the department, through its cameras, was focusing on the tray on which species were sorted. If the member for Gympie had done his job, he would have read through the hearing papers and seen that it was me who wanted to ensure cameras were not put up at the helm showing the entirety of the deck. Unlucky, member for Gympie. It was a nice effort, but keep going and keep relying on those work experience kids. They keep letting him down. Next time, the member should do his own work.

It is important that we reflect on what the industry is talking about. The industry wants to make sure that it is protecting the safety and privacy of its workers. In recommendation 4 the committee recommends that the government consider introducing into regulation measures that safeguard the privacy of information collected through independent onboard monitoring, including the preparation and publication of an information privacy plan. I think that is absolutely fair. If we are to put cameras on board vessels to monitor the catch, it is important that we protect the privacy information of those on deck. The poor old member for Gympie tried to deal a bit of a psychological blow but, as we know, he is just not across his brief, is clearly not across things in his office and is a bit of an embarrassment in this portfolio.

I also reflect on the importance of ensuring we put forward laws that ensure community safety around dogs and that there are effective controls. All those in this House want to ensure we recognise the important role that pets such as dogs play in our community, whether it is to families or individuals who rely on dogs for support.

It is important that the community is safe, especially in public spaces, so I welcome these changes around making sure there are effective controls. I know that when I am out at different marketplaces or out in the community, like a lot of people if I see large dogs around small children I do become a bit nervous and wary. I think it is important that we are putting the responsibility back on dog owners to be responsible—as so many of them are—but we need to ensure that their choice to take their pets out into the community does not have harmful or negative impacts on members of the community. I thank the minister for his work. I thank all of the committee, the chair and the deputy chair. I do support this piece of legislation. Member for Gympie, maybe next time.