




Speech By
Hon. Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

Record of Proceedings, 2 April 2025

MOTION

Queensland Redistribution Commission, Appointment

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (6.07 pm): I rise to speak against the opposition's motion and in support of the Attorney-General's amendment. This is the act of an opposition that is desperate, floundering and without ideas. This is an opposition that is bereft of policy and has taken to playing the man—someone who cannot come in here and defend themselves, I might add. They are so bereft of integrity that they will not actually talk about ideas, policies and the contest of ideas, which is what this place should be about. I speak in support of the amendment.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: I can hear the interjections from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition—and long may he stay the deputy opposition leader, because he is not up to the job. He is a man who has a glass jaw; he wants to come in here and dish it out but he cannot take it. He cannot take it. He cannot ask a question. He should sit there and listen occasionally. Maybe he might learn something.

I speak to the amendment, which talks of Labor's history of gerrymandering in Queensland. It talks about it being introduced by the Hanlon government in 1949. Indeed, it was in 1949 that the Hanlon Labor government sought to introduce a gerrymander, but Labor's history when it comes to gerrymandering in Queensland actually goes back a lot further. In fact, I quote from an article in the *Sydney Morning Herald* from 18 May 1923. I do not know if anyone in this House was alive then. Some may have been—maybe the member for Toohey. The article states—

Labour is in a strong position in the new single-Chamber Parliament of Queensland because of the gerrymandering of the State on the occasion of the last electoral redistribution.

It goes on to say that, based on the number of votes for each party, Labor should have won 37 seats, with anti-Labor parties winning 35. Instead, under Labor's gerrymandering in 1923—a fair while ago—they got 44 seats compared to 28.

Labor have a strong track record when it comes to rigging the electoral system. Who can forget when they came into this House and amended the Electoral Act with 18 minutes notice? They amended the Electoral Act to benefit themselves, so they could cosy up with the Greens. There was no consideration by committee and no consultation with the community. They just slid it into this House in the dead of night to suit their own political agenda, to solidify their own political power. That is Labor's record.

It is hypocritical for Labor to come in here and attack a man who has served both LNP and Labor governments. When she was reading out Mr Sosso's biography, the member for Waterford conveniently missed the seven years he served Wayne Goss. He worked for seven years as a senior member of the Goss government—an honest public servant who served Labor. They conveniently forget that. They conveniently missed that off the list, and that tells us everything about Labor's motivation here tonight.

Labor are seeking to smear a man who has served Queenslanders for many years—a man who is well qualified, a man who helped draft amendments to the Electoral Act in his service to governments of both sides and a man who is well fitted to this role to which we seek to appoint him.

I have a question for those opposite. Who would they have us appoint? Maybe Dave Hannah—

Mr Mander: Michael Ravbar.

Mr MICKELBERG:—Michael Ravbar—

A government member: Jade Ingham.

Mr MICKELBERG:—Jade Ingham and Mike Kaiser? Who can forget that impartial arbiter, Mike Kaiser? I did not hear them squealing too much when he was appointed to run the government under those opposite. He was hand-picked by the now opposition leader. An admitted vote rorter was tasked with administering the opposition of the state at that time—a man whose political ties run deep and are unquestionable. They did not apply this standard back then.

This is nothing more than cheap political pointscore by an opposition that is not up to it and an opposition leader who is not up to it. Long may the people of Queensland remember that this mob are not fit to govern.

(Time expired)