



Speech By **Bryson Head**

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 11 December 2025

DEFAMATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (4.40 pm): I thought I was going to get the jump a bit earlier, but I guess the member for Mundingburra, being a former copper, knows content like this very well, so I had to wait a little longer. I would like to thank the committee for their extensive assessment of this legislation. I see there was overwhelming interest, with five written submissions from stakeholders! I might say that with a tone of jest—

Mr Hunt: Good submissions.

Mr HEAD: I take that interjection: they were good submissions, as the committee chair notes. I am sure he thanked everyone for their participation in this important legislation. I dare say if those moderators of social media and a lot of other digital platforms knew how important this legislation is for them, there might have been a lot more interest. Nonetheless, they are very busy people. To the many moderators of social media groups across Queensland and across the electorate of Callide—there are nearly a hundred that my own MP page participates in—I say that this legislation changes a lot for them. I do place on record my thanks for what they do. It is a pretty thankless job to be a moderator of social media pages. I know firsthand that they would see a lot of vile comments they would rather not see in a civilised society. That is why legislation like this is important: not only to ensure we protect those moderators appropriately but also to have the right controls in place. While this does not change what is defamation, it certainly provides opportunities for people in those positions to have options to deal with third-party content and not always be caught up in a defamation case from something that was not of their own creation.

I note that many members in this House are probably fortunate that there is parliamentary privilege; otherwise, defamation laws might be used a lot more broadly regarding some of the comments that are shared in this House. Probably all members of the chamber are guilty at different points of straying into that. Nonetheless, it is a privilege we have and it serves an important purpose. I know in times past parliamentary privilege has been used to uncover severe grievances across the state. It is a shame that once again the LNP government has to come in and actually get work done for Queensland.

Mrs Poole: A fresh start.

Mr HEAD: I take that interjection from the member for Mundingburra. It is a fresh start for Queensland. It has been fantastic to be part of that fresh start under Premier Crisafulli and our fantastic cabinet, who are working hard for Queensland.

Mr Barounis interjected.

Mr HEAD: I apologise to the member for Maryborough: I did not quite catch that. If Hansard did, I take his interjection.

Mrs Poole: Keeping Queenslanders safe.

Mr HEAD: I take that interjection. We are keeping Queenslanders safe, with many significant changes that are empowering police. I know that we have many former police officers in the House.

Mrs Poole: And they thank you for that.

Mr HEAD: I take that interjection. A lot of them do thank us, and the police minister himself is a former copper.

Mr Hunt: Detective.

Mr HEAD: I am learning a lot about all of the intricacies of the police force from my policing colleagues. As I was saying, we should have had this legislation before parliament a lot sooner. After the former government's grips of chaos and crisis, potentially their laziness, their distractions—whatever you want to call it—there is a lot of legislation that we have had to carry forward that they were meant to bring in and they simply did not—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner): Member for Callide, it would be helpful if you came back to relevance to the long title of the bill.

Mr HEAD: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mrs Kirkland interjected.

Mr HEAD: I take that interjection. I think there was a committee of other states that had met—

Mr McDonald: SCAG.

Mr HEAD:—the SCAG; I thank the member for Lockyer for the interjection—that said they were to make this change by July of last year, but it simply did not happen. Here it is in front of the Queensland parliament, thanks to the Crisafulli government. I thank all of the members of the committee for their work over the year. It has been a very busy year, but we are getting on with doing the job for Queensland. It was interesting that at the start of the week those opposite were in here going on about guillotining debate across the week. We have noticed that suddenly a lot of them have dropped off the speaking list. Maybe they have gone to celebrate Christmas a little early.

Mr Hunt: We'll keep working.

Mr HEAD: I take that interjection. We are in here working, with government members speaking back to back on this bill because the opposition has not turned up. I made contributions last night about the member for Maiwar doing more work than the opposition and maybe once again we are seeing the same. I note my thanks to the Attorney-General and all of the department staff behind this important legislation who do great work serving Queenslanders and assisting the Crisafulli government. With that, I commend the bill to the House.