



Speech By  
**Dr Christian Rowan**


**MEMBER FOR MOGGILL**

---

Record of Proceedings, 18 February 2025

**TRUSTS BILL**

**Declared Urgent**

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (4.47 pm): If there is anything that defines the inefficiency and laziness of the Labor opposition it is the circumstances surrounding this topic. As the Attorney-General clearly outlined in her speech to the parliament today, this is important legislation which has been drafted to align with the Trusts Bill 2024, which was introduced into the 57th Queensland Parliament and was allowed to sit on the *Notice Paper*. The manner and the circumstances surrounding this begins to define the previous Labor governments that were inefficient, that did not get things done on time and did not act in the best interests of Queenslanders.

This legislation has come about as a direct result of a review into the Trusts Act, which was undertaken by the Queensland Law Reform Commission. Then, as I said, it was allowed to gather dust over many years. That was under the former Labor government. It also has to be remembered that Labor failed to act on many other issues over the last 10 years which Queenslanders are well aware of. We have had various crises as a consequence and Queenslanders are paying the price with respect to those.

The lapsed bill, as introduced by the former Labor government, was comprehensively examined by the then committee, which was the former Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee, which tabled a comprehensive report on 2 August 2024. I heard members talking earlier about the fact that declaring a bill urgent in some circumstances is somehow truncating proper processes. The former Labor government on many occasions had to declare bills urgent themselves because—

**Mr Powell:** On many, many occasions.

**Dr ROWAN:**—on many, many occasions—I take the interjection from the member for Glass House—because they were important issues to Queenslanders.

The issue around the urgency motion when it comes to this is that, given the substantial similarities between this bill and its predecessor and the fact that the lapsed bill was already the subject of detailed committee scrutiny and significant consultation, there is no reasonable justification for the new committee to undertake a new process that would merely replicate the work that was already done. We have already heard that the committee chair has been consulted around that. We are trying to ensure there is efficiency undertaken in this Queensland parliament. We acknowledge the previous work that was done and we certainly do not want to have—

**Mrs Gerber** interjected.

**Dr ROWAN:** That is something, and I take the interjection from the minister. Efficiency is not something the Labor opposition understands. It clearly does not understand the concept of having efficiency when it comes to the judicious use of committee time, particularly that of the Justice, Integrity

and Community Safety Committee. To have the whole process created again would ensure that its valuable time was wasted and it would be an inefficiency when it comes to resources. To do so again would be an unnecessary delay.

The reforms in the bill, as I have said, are long overdue—they stalled for nearly a decade under Labor—and that is why the proposed reporting date on the Trusts Bill 2025 gives sufficient time for additional due scrutiny and diligence beyond what had already been done in the previous parliament, given the extensive delays around these matters. A reporting date of 7 March 2025 is entirely appropriate for these reasons. As such, I move—

That the question be now put.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.