



Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Record of Proceedings, 25 June 2025

MOTION

Censure of Opposition



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (11.22 am): I move—

That this parliament censures the Queensland Labor opposition for their failure to meet their duties in this parliament this morning, including the failure by some shadow ministers to attend question time.

This is a serious and important motion. Every four years, members are elected to this parliament to fulfil their duties, whether that be advocating on behalf of their communities or fighting for additional services and infrastructure for their areas. Some members of parliament are afforded additional pay to carry out the duties and the responsibilities that they fulfil not only to this House but also to all of Queensland. To be a member of parliament, you need to represent your community and your constituents.

Very importantly, each year we have a budget. It is an extraordinary situation that, the day after the 2025-26 state budget was handed down, in an unprecedented way members of the Labor opposition, including senior shadow ministers, have failed to attend important parts of the democratic and parliamentary processes in parliament, particularly when it comes to question time. Today in the parliament we see a Labor opposition that is lazy. They are not up to the great responsibilities that are bestowed upon them as an opposition in Queensland. They were not fit to be in government and clearly they are not even fit to be in opposition. Our democratic institution needs to be treated with the dignity and the respect that it deserves. Today, the Labor opposition has failed to do that.

This opposition would have to be the laziest in Queensland's history. They have significant resources to represent their areas and their communities. Their shadow ministers have significant resources. Failing to come into this place today is basically disrespectful to all of Queensland. It is terrible. It is disgraceful when we think about what is happening here.

This reminds me of the Tree of Knowledge at Barcaldine. People have told me that the Tree of Knowledge was poisoned, but I think it died of shame. I think it died of shame because in Queensland the Labor opposition and the union movement have failed to stand up for their interests and for ordinary Queenslanders. The tree was not poisoned by some scoundrel in the middle of the night. It died of shame and we know exactly why that is the case.

Opposition members interjected.

Dr ROWAN: I hear members opposite interjecting. They will whinge and whine because that is all they do in this place. As a Labor opposition all they do is whinge and whine about particular things. However, we are just about to debate important legislation. This is not just about not being here for ministerial statements. It is not just about not being here for question time. It is also about not being here to debate important legislation, which is what we are elected to do in Queensland.

On this side of the House, we take our responsibilities seriously. Members of the government turn up to work. Members of the government represent their electorates. Members of the government fulfil their responsibilities. However, members of the Labor opposition recklessly abandon their responsibilities to their constituents and their responsibilities to this House. It is disgraceful.

This is an important motion. The government has not taken this step lightly. We have given due consideration to the appropriateness of a censure motion. A censure motion is appropriate given the unprecedented circumstances when we look at what has happened in this term of the parliament and the unprecedented circumstances over many years. The Labor opposition should be fulfilling their responsibilities to all of Queensland. They are paid to do that. The shadow ministers are provided with additional financial support and additional resources to do that, but they are not here in the parliament today. It is very clear: members on that side of the House are very quiet because they are embarrassed and ashamed.

Mrs Gerber: Because there's not enough of them.

Dr ROWAN: I take the interjection from the minister; there is not enough of them to interject and they are embarrassed and ashamed. I say to all members of this parliament that this censure motion needs to be supported. The government has not taken this step lightly. Shame on Labor.