




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 11 June 2025

MOTION

Redistribution Commission

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeester—ALP) (5.47 pm): What a display! Yesterday those opposite voted to make sure that the member for Nanango, the Attorney-General, did not have to table her evidence and today they have done it again. What do they have to hide? What does the Attorney-General have to hide? Why do they keep pulling down the shutters to make sure that she does not have to present any information whatsoever?

I rise in full support of the motion of the Leader of the Opposition which is rooted in one of the most fundamental principles of our democracy. The public must have absolute confidence in the integrity of the institutions that determine how their voices are represented in this parliament. When former Liberal member for Clayfield, Santo Santoro, said in this House that a lack of support of the commissioners by any party would lead to a public perception that the government of the day had rigged the system, his words do not appear to have been partisan, they appear to be principled. They spoke to a truth that transcends political lines—that democracy must not only be fair but be seen to be fair. What we have witnessed from the Crisafulli LNP government undermines that principle. This government, which has spoken publicly about restoring integrity in public life, has appointed a redistribution commissioner without, it can be argued, genuine consultation across this chamber, without seeking the confidence of all parties and, it would appear, without regard for the legislative requirements. That is not a small oversight, it is a breach of the very trust upon which our democratic processes rely.

Further, one of the individuals appointed, Mr John Sosso, is someone whose longstanding associations with the LNP are not incidental, they are well known and well documented. While Mr Sosso may bring experience, experience alone does not equate to impartiality. When someone is appointed to an office that demands the highest level of independence, perception matters just as much as reality. Let us be clear: electoral redistributions shape the future of democracy in Queensland. The people who draw the boundaries must be independent, must be impartial and, crucially, must be seen to be both. Concerns have been raised not only by those on this side of the House but also by respected voices outside this chamber. Former judge Tony Fitzgerald, a Queenslander, as we all know, synonymous with integrity and institutional reform, publicly questioned this appointment. That should have prompted pause. Instead the government forged ahead.

The Attorney-General, the minister responsible for the state's legal and justice system, should have known that under the Electoral Act she is required to consult appropriately with political parties on matters related to the appointment of the Queensland Redistribution Commission. Given she says that one of the first briefs that was handed to her on 14 December 2024 was in relation to 'what we should do about the Electoral Commission' one would think that she would be aware of her responsibilities under the act. If the minister, who ironically is also responsible for integrity in this LNP government, is

fair dinkum about her duties and agrees with the words of Santo Santoro she would release all relevant documents including advice, correspondence and emails in respect of the Queensland Redistribution Commission appointments.

This Crisafulli LNP government is blocking out any chance of letting the sun shine in and we have just seen it again today. It would seem that they are systematically drawing the blinds and boarding up the doors and windows to their government. That is why we are calling for the establishment of an independent select committee that will look closely at the appointment processes undertaken by the Attorney-General so that Queenslanders can trust that the next electoral boundaries are not drawn by a blue pencil in an LNP backroom. It is all about trust that the government is not rigging the system to favour their own political agenda, trust that this government's ministers are following the rules that make it fair for all Queenslanders and trust that Queenslanders can have confidence that the very principles that underpin this House are being upheld.

We are calling for an independent committee that will also investigate if this government misled the Governor in respect to the consultation requirements for the appointment of redistribution commissioners. This speaks to a much bigger issue and must have a bright light shone on it. To ensure the independence of the select committee, it must be led by a non-government chair. This motion is about protecting the democratic process; it is about ensuring the Queensland public can continue to trust that elections are fair and that those who draw electoral boundaries do so free from political interference or the appearance of it. That trust is not automatically granted, it is earned and it must be defended. That is why I am supporting this motion and that is why Labor will continue to defend the rights of this House.