



Speech By  
**Hon. Meaghan Scanlon**


**MEMBER FOR GAVEN**

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Record of Proceedings, 2 April 2025

**MOTION**

**Queensland Redistribution Commission, Appointment**

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (6.12 pm): Talking about people who are not up to it, all the member for Buderim could reference were actions taken over a hundred years ago. He asks what policies on integrity of the electoral system the Labor party wants to put forward. When the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Attorney-General sat in this House, how did they vote on banning developer donations? They did not agree with that. How did they vote on lifting the disclosure threshold so Queenslanders could see who was donating to political parties? They were not so big on transparency then, were they?

I rise to support the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition because trust in our electoral system matters. Queenslanders deserve to know that their democratic system is not being gerrymandered, that the government of the day will not use its powers to game a system to their benefit and their interests and, frankly, the interests of their benefactors. Appointing John Sosso to the independent Queensland Redistribution Commission does not pass the pub test and it also does not meet the expectations Tony Fitzgerald set out. While I may not have been around during the Fitzgerald inquiry, I know how significant that moment in history was in reforming this state for the better.

**Mr Dick:** Every Queenslander should.

**Ms SCANLON:** I take the interjection—every Queenslander should—but what is clear is that members of the government have not taken those recommendations seriously. Those expectations resulted in recommendations establishing a periodic review of the number of parliamentarians and boundaries to be undertaken by an independent authority. That is the key word here: ‘independent’, not influenced or controlled in any other way.

John Sosso is someone who, by his own admission, was a member of the Liberal National Party. He has a long history of working for LNP governments: Bjelke-Petersen, Borbidge, Newman and now Crisafulli. He has been personally thanked in parliament by former senator Santoro as well as by the member for Clayfield. Mr Sosso served as the director-general for the member for Kawana overseeing some very questionable decisions. I know that many of those have been laid out by former speakers. Surprise, surprise: Mr Sosso has loyally followed the LNP to 1 William Street to serve as the Deputy Premier’s right-hand man without a merit-based selection process. We heard a lot about merit-based selection processes when they were in opposition, although they are a bit quiet about them now.

Unfortunately, time does not permit me to outline the many questions that this appointment and Mr Sosso’s connection with the member for Kawana spark, but there are many, particularly given some of the comments made by those opposite when they were in opposition. What is really clear is that John Sosso has a political past and, as such, this is a partisan appointment. If his appointment goes through, it will be like putting the member for Nanango in charge of integrity, frankly, because we have not seen a lot of integrity from the so-called Minister for Integrity. We have not seen cabinet documents.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Buderim, you are now warned.

**Ms SCANLON:** Now, clearly, they are trying to influence the outcome of the next election by appointing people they know will serve their political interests. This is a complete and utter farce and it is really concerning for Queensland. The appointment of Mr Sosso to the independent Queensland Redistribution Commission cannot proceed. If Premier Crisafulli had a shred of credibility, like some of the former premiers in this state, he would admit that they got it wrong and look further afield across government to a wealth of directors-general and chief executives who would be able to fill this position and who are beyond reproach.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Chatsworth, there will be no quarrelling across the chamber.

**Ms SCANLON:** 'I would prefer the appointment process have the bipartisan support of a committee representative of all parties.' Those are not my words; those are the words of the independent Clerk of this parliament, Neil Laurie, in a submission regarding an LNP bill in respect of the Redistribution Commission, and I agree with that sentiment. The positions on this committee should be bipartisan and, as such, I and the Queensland opposition cannot support the LNP government's appointment of John Sosso.