




Speech By  
**Nikki Boyd**

**MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS**

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### **HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (3.30 pm): I recall it was not too long ago when those opposite were carrying around a little blue book everywhere they went—their right-wing priorities. One of those major—and if I recall one of only two—policies around how to heal the health system was to put doctors and nurses back in charge of said health system. The other, of course, was real-time reporting. We have seen what an absolutely monumental and inaccurate system that is for health care in Queensland. The feedback we are receiving from community around how that does not, in fact, achieve those goals and in many cases is not actually accurate around wait times has been stark and scary and is leaving Queensland in a position where they do not believe the data they are seeing. It is frightening that as a government they do not believe in harm minimisation. They do not believe in gender-affirming care. They do not believe in rural and remote incentives for healthcare workers. All of those things are things that have already been cut under an LNP government.

This bill does deliver on a slogan. It delivers on a slogan from the LNP's perspective around putting doctors and nurses back in charge. One of the things I want to know is who on earth has been in charge of Queensland Health for the last 228 days if doctors and nurses have not been in charge? We know that this is something that the member for Hervey Bay, who spoke before me, said—that they have not been in charge at all. Who on earth has been running our hospitals, because we know it has not been the LNP?

When we look at workforce attraction schemes that have been ripped out of the regions, when doctors are ignored around pill testing and clinic closures, when some of our most vulnerable Queenslanders have had to endure puberty in a body that does not align with their identity, who is taking responsibility for that? Who is taking responsibility when doctors are talking out against these things? Who is in charge when all of that is happening? Who is taking responsibility for our state's nurses striking for the first time in over 20 years?

I tell honourable members who is not taking responsibility for it. The member for Mudgeeraba is not taking responsibility for it because she has been relegated to the 'minister for petty cash and stationery' while the member for Clayfield has taken up the scalpel. I want to make a very important distinction. Of course, he has changed the cuts knife that he wielded as Campbell Newman's treasurer to a scalpel, making incisions and cuts all the while smiling and saying that there is nothing to see here. It is little wonder that the Queensland Health workforce has dubbed him Elon Musk. This is a health minister who had a rescue plan with no detail. My community wants to know when the Redcliffe Hospital expansion will be delivered. They cannot get any sense out of the member for Redcliffe.

**Dr ROWAN:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I ask whether this is within the long title of the bill.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Marr): I am going to take that point of order. I ask you to bring your speech back to the bill.

**Ms BOYD:** We know how important health care is, and our growing region needs a growing health system now, not at an undefined time into the future. The only time that doctors, nurses and clinical staff are not in charge at a hospital is when there are politically motivated attacks and cuts made by this government. One of the things I know for sure is you cannot heal with cuts.

One of the other things that this bill addresses is waste disposal. We know there are several barriers to effective disposal of vapes under the current designation. Local government probably know it best of all. Our Queensland Fire Department sees the damage they can cause. Those vapes with lithium ion batteries can overheat, leak and explode in our community. The challenge is real here. Mayors inform me of council dump trucks that are literally dropping massive dumpster fires in the middle of our city streets as they catch fire through routine kerbside support.

**Mr McCallum** interjected.

**Ms BOYD:** I take the interjection from the member for Bundamba; it is horrible. That is why I support the calls from the members in the statement of reservation for more cross-sector consultation to accelerate effective and safe disposal of these products because this bill does not fix it. Why would we expect it to? Why would we expect that from a government that will not listen to local government? They claim to be equal partners, but their actions prove this is now not the case, and there is no starker example than in the waste recovery sector. Rockhampton Regional Council, Cairns Regional Council, Bundaberg Regional Council, Fraser Coast Regional Council, Gladstone Regional Council, Townsville City Council and Mackay Regional Council—these are seven councils with government MPs representing every single one of them that have written to the Premier and the environment minister pleading with them to reverse their decision to impose a \$137 million bin tax on their community.

**Dr ROWAN:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It relates to relevance again. I would ask you to bring the member back to the long title of the bill.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I take that point of order. Member for Pine Rivers, please return to the bill.

**Ms BOYD:** When it comes to waste disposal of hazardous materials, when it comes to waste disposal of heavy metals, when it comes to waste disposal of lithium ion batteries, all of which this bill directly speaks to, at the centre of that is our local governments, and our local governments know—

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on a point of relevance. This bill does not speak to the disposal of lithium batteries. This bill speaks to the health department's ability to move rapidly to disassemble and move away with vapes. It has nothing to do with it, and nothing that the member has raised is in relation to the policy intent of the bill or the long title of the bill.

**Ms BOYD:** Madam Deputy Speaker, if I may assist your deliberations, the statement of reservation—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will get some advice first. Member for Pine Rivers, I will give you the opportunity to point out where the discussion you are having is in the bill.

**Ms BOYD:** I will do with that absolute pleasure, Madam Deputy Speaker. I would like to draw the minister's attention and the House's attention to the statement of reservation where on the final page and the fifth paragraph from the top it talks about the disposal of lithium ion batteries and waste disposal. Further, it talks about the fact that it is in the explanatory notes—explanatory notes I presume the health minister has read. That is how it is relevant to the bill. That is how it is relevant: through the explanatory notes to the bill and through the statement of reservation in the committee's report. This is very relevant to this debate. It is very relevant to the cost impost of our local governments that will have no choice but to pass on—

**Dr ROWAN:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Moggill, if I could just have a moment. Member for Pine Rivers, you have explained where it is in the bill. You can continue with your speech in a moment. Let me take this point of order first.

**Dr ROWAN:** You have ruled, Madam Deputy Speaker, but I am going to bring up the point of relevance again in relation to the proposition as put by the member for Pine Rivers. I would submit to you that this is not within the long title of the bill and the contribution does not relate to that.

**Mr BAILEY:** To the point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker: I know the reference here is—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Sorry, but I will just take some advice. Please, one at a time. It does not talk about lithium ion batteries specifically, so if you could please just get back to the bill.

**Mr BAILEY:** To the point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker: every vape has a small lithium ion battery in it and I know this may not be familiar to the health minister, but disposal and waste—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Okay. You can take a seat, member.

**Mr BAILEY:**—are very much a part of—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You can take a seat, thank you.

**Mr BAILEY:**—this bill.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Madam Deputy Speaker, it will not surprise you that I take offence and ask the member to withdraw.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member takes offence and he asks you to withdraw.

**Mr BAILEY:** I withdraw.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** If I could just have silence from everybody for a moment, please. There seems to be a little bit of disorder. I am just going to repeat the Speaker's earlier response to this. We wish to stress that standing order 139 does not mean that one phrase or sentence in a written or oral submission to a committee or the committee's report or statement of reservation or dissent can become a new or alternate debate to the debate on the bill. Member for Pine Rivers, I ask you to bring it back to the bill, thank you. You have three minutes and 42 seconds to do so.

**Ms BOYD:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Can I specifically reference the explanatory notes—the green—which say—

Vaping goods present unique safety risks that make their management more complex than other seized substances like illicit tobacco. Vaping goods are highly flammable and create significant fire hazards, particularly when improperly handled, stored, or destroyed. The presence of lithium-ion batteries, which can overheat, leak, or explode under certain conditions, further complicates their handling. Additionally, vaping goods contain hazardous materials ...

And it goes on. Specifically in relation to this, the Cairns Regional Council raised concerns—

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance again. The proposal in the bill itself under clause 21, 'How property may be dealt with', says 'including, for example, by destroying the thing'. That is the entire reference to vapes within the bill itself. I would submit, Madam Deputy Speaker, that the member continues to be irrelevant.

**Mr BAILEY:** To the point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker: previous speakers have referred to the waste element. The disposal of vapes is clearly what this section of the bill is about. Other speakers have spoken about the waste implications of it and not been held up or harassed by the minister. The member is simply speaking—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Okay, maybe you can take your seat, thank you.

**Mr BAILEY:**—to the bill.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have taken your point of order.

**Mr BAILEY:** It is—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It is not time to debate or to trade insults across the floor.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I take personal offence at the language used by the member and I ask that he withdraw.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member.

**Mr BAILEY:** I withdraw.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** If I can have some silence, thank you, for a moment—

**Mrs Gerber** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:**—and if I have to continue to hear backchat towards me in the chair, we will deal with that as well. Member for Pine Rivers, I understand what you are saying about the bill, but if you could please not use that as your whole sole speech but bring it back to the title, I will give you the time.

**Ms BOYD:** I got you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Let us reference the statement of reservation at paragraph 4 which talks about the evidence provided that estimated as many as 12,000 fires were caused due to the incorrect disposal of battery and battery powered products, with 200 battery related fires reported in Queensland in the last 12 months. This is a safety issue for Queensland. This is a safety issue that those—

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance again.

**Mrs Gerber** interjected.

**Ms BOYD:** It was submitted by a submitter. The WMRR submitted it.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Marr): Sorry, member for Pine Rivers, but there is a point of order. I will take the point of order, member for Clayfield.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. The evidence in relation to 12,000 batteries is totally irrelevant to the policy and the contents of the bill. It does not refer to 12,000 lithium ion batteries from vapes. It was a broad statement made by the submitter to the inquiry about the general—

**Mr BAILEY:** That is not a point of order. Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr NICHOLLS:**—disposal—

**Mr BAILEY:** That is a debating point—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** That is a debating point, not a point of order, respectfully.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** If I could finish my point of order, that would be handy.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I am going to take final advice on this. We are wasting a lot of time just on one part of the bill.

**Dr ROWAN:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order relates to the point of order that the health minister was raising. He was not given the opportunity to finish his point of order.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, you cannot use that part of the bill—

**Ms BOYD:** Madam Deputy Speaker, if it assists, it is a submission made by a stakeholder.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You can use the statement of reservation, but you cannot use the broad scope of the bill, so can I please ask you to bring it back.

**Ms BOYD:** I am speaking specifically around what was submitted to the committee through stakeholders just for the purposes of those opposite so they are clear on this. There was also reference to the Cairns Regional Council. It specifically talked about a fire with an estimated cost of \$30 million to replace—

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order again on relevance.

**Ms BOYD:** Why are you silencing me?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** The Cairns Regional Council—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Pine Rivers!

**Mr NICHOLLS:**—did not even make a submission to this bill.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Pine Rivers, this is the last time that I will ask you to bring it back to the bill. In terms of that last comment, the member is right: I will take his point of order. Please bring it back to the bill.

**Ms BOYD:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. This is information contained within the statement of reservation—that is, a \$30 million bin tax that is now being left with local governments due to the decisions of the LNP government.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Madam Deputy Speaker—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Pine Rivers, I will ask you to take your seat please.

**Ms BOYD:** This is an important issue that I am being silenced on by those opposite.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Pine Rivers! I have taken advice and, as per the statement that I read to you previously, you cannot take just one sentence out of the statement and make it your whole topic of conversation. Can I please get you to bring it back to the bill.

**Ms BOYD:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. One of the things that was really clear through submissions to the committee process was that there is a real danger in disposing of these products—something that the minister himself has acknowledged is a true and legitimate problem. At the heart of that problem, at the heart of waste recovery, at the heart of waste disposal is the local governments and the issues that they have, instead what we are actually seeing—

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Madam Deputy Speaker—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Pine Rivers, please take your seat. Member for Clayfield, what is your point of order?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I rise again to a point of order, and the point of order is that it has nothing to do with councils and their issues in relation to disposal of the waste. As valid as that might be, it is not the subject of the debate in this bill and it is not the subject of the bill or the long title of the bill, and I would ask you to bring the member back to relevance.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Pine Rivers, this is your last opportunity to come back to the bill or I will ask you to take your seat.

**Mr BAILEY:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This bill refers to cost orders. The member is speaking to the explanatory notes. She is being relevant to the issue of a new technology and how it is disposed. The bill is engineered around the government's difficulties around disposals, but there are other entities—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, I do not need you to debate your point of order. The whole bill is not talking about disposal of an item. I have made it very clear that the member should bring her contribution back to the bill. I do not want to be challenged again, thank you. Member for Pine Rivers, I bring you back to the bill.

**Ms BOYD:** I want to see a safer community. Whether that is cracking down on illegal chop-chop shops or providing protection for our frontline firefighters or safety for workers performing their jobs each and every day, it is important. It is important that they have a government that supports them—a government that does not see rates increase as a result of bin taxes that they are imposing on seven local governments right now. These are real issues that are facing Queenslanders.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, you have 18 seconds left. Please, just get to the end. Members should not think for a moment that I will not start giving warnings when I am challenged from the floor inappropriately.

**Ms BOYD:** In what is the longest 10 minutes of my life, can I support the non-government members in the contributions they are giving and the statement of reservation—

*(Time expired)*