



Speech By  
**Nikki Boyd**

**MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS**

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## **PENALTIES AND SENTENCES (SEXUAL OFFENCES) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

### **Second Reading**

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (8.01 pm): I will not take too long this evening on my contribution on the Penalties and Sentences (Sexual Offences) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill because I am really conscious of time. I am conscious of the fact that victim-survivors have been waiting too long to see these recommendations from *The ripple effect* implemented. I am also very conscious that, while there could have been immediate action some weeks ago during a parliamentary sitting, we are still here talking about these reforms today. This government says that it puts victims first; however, it is very clear in the way that it has dealt with rape victim-survivors through this process that that is not the case. That statement is, in fact, a hollow and substanceless slogan, because the LNP put politics first and victim-survivors last.

The Attorney-General sat on this report, *The ripple effect*, for six months and only acted once she was forced to, when there was political pressure applied. When pressure was applied, the Attorney-General could have legislated immediately on these matters. Rather than doing so, the Attorney-General decided to play politics and decided to refer it to a prolonged committee process—a committee process that in and of itself demonstrated that a committee process was not required when the single recommendation of the committee report was that the bill be passed. The Attorney-General sat on the report for six months and then we went through the committee process as well. Instead of seeing decisive and swift action from the Attorney-General, we have seen this issue become a political football.

**Mr Head** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr O'Shea): Member for Callide, can you address your comments through the chair.

**Ms BOYD:** Madam Deputy Speaker, thank you for your protection. There are 1,600 victim-survivors who will be disadvantaged by the delays that are happening here this evening.

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There is too much conversation on my right.

**Ms BOYD:** There are 1,600 victim-survivors who will face court without the protections that are in this bill because not only have there been delays in bringing this legislation before the House but also there have been delays in the immediate resolution of these matters in this place. There will be yet a further delay in their implementation. That is a delay that will be too long for victim-survivors to have to wait.

Rather than taking decisive action and leading on this issue, the government would prefer to throw mud and throw slogans around. The people who will lose the most because of that will be victim-survivors in this state. I cannot even see how the government would benefit from that. It is a massive blow to credibility. How do you look victim-survivors in the face and say, 'You have to wait longer because of the actions that are being taken in this chamber'—actions being taken by the LNP government because they are a political unit that prioritises politics over protections? It is a perverse value set and one that I do not understand.

All we hear being thrown around incessantly from those opposite are historic issues and political slogans. Rape victims do not want to hear that. They actually want to hear how the government of the day will assist them.

**Mr Minnikin:** Victims want rape kits.

**Ms BOYD:** They do want rape kits. I take the interjection from the member for Chatsworth. They want rape kits when they come to the Kilcoy Hospital or the Caboolture Hospital or the Redcliffe Hospital.

**Mr Minnikin:** Finally you've cottoned on—finally. Failed public policy. You had your chance—failed.

**Ms BOYD:** Under your government they are not getting them, member for Chatsworth.

**Mr Minnikin:** Redistribution will take care of you, if not the CCC.

**Ms BOYD:** I take the interjection from the member for Chatsworth, who just said, 'Redistribution will take care of you.'

**Mr Minnikin:** 'Or the CCC'—quote it properly.

**Ms BOYD:** Madam Deputy Speaker, if ever you wanted evidence of a gerrymander, we have just heard it from the Minister for Small Business. The Minister for Small Business has just made those comments in the *Hansard* of this place.

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There are far too many interjections. The member for Pine Rivers is not taking them. If we can have order on my right, please.

**Ms BOYD:** An important body of work has been done by the Sentencing Advisory Council. This was work where they methodically listened, analysed and tested. They listened to the voice of victim-survivors. They had the experience of frontline workers put forward. They had the evidence of judges and lawyers. It was work that delivered 28 recommendations. It went on for quite a period of time. There were 20 key findings—not four findings, not four things to legislate on, but 20 key findings and 28 recommendations. If this government were fair dinkum about this then they would be acting on it.

**Government members:** Ten years!

**Ms BOYD:** They obviously cannot even add up when they keep chanting '10 years.' This was a body of work that was instigated under the Labor government, but the LNP government now has carriage of it. Rather than focusing on the important work that they have to do to protect Queenslanders, they are sitting in this chamber acting like children.

They are acting like there is some kind of political point-scoring to be made from this. There is not; there are actually Queensland lives at risk. I appreciate just how traumatic these experiences are for the people who have gone through them. They are hoping and praying for outcomes in this space. Instead of having that support, this LNP government is playing political games. It is a real disappointment because what Queenslanders want from a government is a mature government, a government that is going to take on the challenges of the day, a government that will listen to the experts and put politics aside. What they have instead is this LNP government, which is nothing short of a disgrace.