




Speech By
Hon. Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Record of Proceedings, 11 June 2025

MOTION

Redistribution Commission

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (6.14 pm): I rise to support the amendment moved by the Attorney-General after yet another subpar parliamentary performance from those opposite this week. It is always fun to follow the member for Waterford, who must be the worst child safety minister this country has ever seen, who went to Splendour in the Grass when kids were dying on the front page of the *Courier-Mail*. We know that she was the worst health minister in the country. The member for Waterford is the only health minister sacked by all of Queensland at the last election. We know that she is lining up for the poor old member for Murrumba's job. I actually feel a little bit sorry for him.

I have some advice for the member for Waterford: if you are going to run to be leader, the first thing you do is you do not believe your own publicity. Then you have to make sure you have the numbers. After that you have to make sure you can count. The worst thing you can do is have Jackie Trad ring round for your numbers and have the member for Miller helping!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms BATES: This is the member for Waterford who believes her own publicity—Jackie Trad's puppet. She is the Whistler ski bunny mate of Jackie Trad—Jackie Trad's little puppet. She is the shadow leader of the opposition in waiting.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms BATES: The member for Waterford is the smiling assassin, licking her lips to take the top job. My, what big teeth the member for Waterford has!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba, if you can confine your comments—

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr SPEAKER:—member for Pine Rivers, you are warned—to the motion.

Ms BATES: Will do, Mr Speaker. Yet again we have seen those opposite more interested in besmirching the reputation of a dedicated public servant than delivering for their communities in Queensland. Here is another bit of information for the member for Waterford. There is an old saying, 'Wisdom has been chasing you, member for Waterford, but you have always been too fast.'

Mr Sosso is a public servant who has given some 41 years of service to this state. He is a public servant who has served diligently in both Labor and LNP governments. He is a public servant who worked on the electoral laws for the Goss government, no less. Yet those opposite come into this place and have tried repeatedly to besmirch his reputation, calling it into question and casting all sorts of despicable aspersions, none of which they will make outside of the chamber.

The truth of the matter is simple: the Department of Justice prepared advice regarding the membership of the Queensland Redistribution Commission. Consistent with the requirements of the act, the Department of Justice recommended the appointment of appropriately qualified chief executives. Those recommendations—from the Department of Justice—include the chief executive of the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning.

As a director-general for both the justice and planning portfolios, Mr Sosso is arguably one of the most qualified chief executives to ever be proposed for appointment to the Redistribution Commission, but the facts never matter to those opposite. Why worry about the truth when a cheap smear campaign will be run in the media. We should not be surprised about that, coming from a Labor Party that have demonstrated a total lack of respect for independent public servants during their decade in power.

What is this latest round of attacks based on? So-called unseen advice by a former Labor staffer turned Victorian barrister who has acted for Labor in the Federal Court. They could not even be bothered to engage a Queensland barrister! The advice, if the media reports are to be believed, argues that the appointment may not be valid. A lawyer, hired by the Labor Party, arguing that something may not be the case—an argument in full agreement with the Queensland Labor Party's position—well, wonders never cease! This is not to mention, in sharp contrast, the actual advice—the Crown Law advice—has confirmed that 'proper consultation processes were followed'.

Further, let's not forget the form those opposite have in this space. Those opposite are quick to forget whom they appointed as head of the Queensland Public Service. Here is a hint: he was a former Labor Party MP, a former Labor state secretary, a former chief of staff to Anna Bligh, a self-admitted electoral fraudster. He was the Leader of the Opposition's pick to head up the Queensland Public Service.

Let's not forget about other Labor appointments of note, like when the member for Woodridge appointed his chief of staff Michael Carey as the Under Treasurer when in government. Better still, let's not forget about the puppetmaster of the Labor Party, the former member for South Brisbane, Jackie Trad, who was besties with the member for Waterford—so much so they go skiing together. How hypocritical are those opposite to come into this place and talk about transparency given the cover-up performed by the member for Waterford and the member for Murrumba to benefit their mate Jackie Trad. How much did the member for Waterford cost Queensland taxpayers covering up for her skiing mate? When Jackie Trad applied to the Supreme Court to have the PCCC report withheld, it was the member for Waterford who facilitated it.

(Time expired)