



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 June 2025

**MOTION**

**Redistribution Commission**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (5.59 pm): Reflecting on the Deputy Premier's contribution, it is interesting that he is lecturing us on this side when it was he who leaked confidential discussions with judges and heads of jurisdiction when he was the attorney-general. I cannot sit here and be lectured by the worst attorney-general in this state's history about phone calls and leaking confidential information. I will not take it, and I absolutely reject his inferences. I really do welcome the Deputy Premier getting on his feet in this place and fronting the cameras any time because we on this side of the House know that every time he is on TV their primary vote goes down.

**An opposition member:** Our vote goes up.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** And ours goes up. They remember what he was like when he was the worst attorney-general in Queensland's history. We know why the Deputy Premier desperately wants his director-general on the commission. It is for the same reason he directed the Attorney-General to put the same individual on the selection panel for judges: the Deputy Premier's hand-picked director-general will do just what the Deputy Premier asks him to do. That is why we are here. That is why we have moved this motion.

Tony Fitzgerald sounded the alarm bells because we are headed back to the dark old days of the gerrymander. I am sorry, but when Tony Fitzgerald has something to say on integrity I would have thought that the Premier and the Deputy Premier might want to listen. This is not just about John Sosso—

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Waterford has the call. Member for Kawana, you have had your turn.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** This is not just about John Sosso; this is about a pattern of conduct we are seeing from those opposite. They are a government that believe the rules do not apply to them. They are a government that are willing to compromise the integrity of our electoral system.

Let's call this out for what it is: a deeply partisan appointment that is reminiscent of the bad old days of Joh Bjelke-Petersen. Just this week the *Courier Mail* reported that legal advice shows that the consultation process undertaken by the Attorney-General under the Electoral Act may not have been properly followed. Let's be clear: the Attorney-General has a legal obligation to consult. That does not mean it is a tick and flick exercise. It does not mean that it is enough to send out a few letters; the Attorney-General actually has to demonstrate, according to law, that she took on board the feedback.

Of course, the Attorney-General was too busy and kept saying over and over that her nominee was above reproach. She never took on board the feedback. She never agreed to meet with the Leader of the Opposition. She has not complied with her obligations under the Electoral Act, and that has put the whole commission at risk.

This is fundamental to Queenslanders having trust in the electoral system and our democracy. I am absolutely certain that, if she wanted to be open and transparent, the Attorney-General could table any legal advice she has from Crown Law and any briefings she has from her department. That is what this motion is calling for tonight. We have already seen them vote against being transparent tonight, and I have no doubt they still will not be up-front and transparent with Queenslanders by providing that documentation.

This motion also goes further. We are calling for a full inquiry—a select committee with the power to call witnesses and scrutinise documents to get the truth not just about John Sosso but also about whether the Governor of Queensland was misled. I am certain that the Deputy Premier would love to be able to reassure His Majesty King Charles that his representative in Queensland was not misled by this government. I am sure he will lose sleep over whether or not King Charles's representative was misled. I am sure he would want to get to the bottom of that. I am sure he would want to know that no stone was unturned, that they have followed the process under the Electoral Act and that the governor was not misled.

This motion was absolutely about how arrogant the government really are. Despite our raising these concerns over and over again, they are determined to drag Queensland back into the murky waters of the past—a political past of gerrymandering and secrecy.

*(Time expired)*