




Speech By
Hon. Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 18 February 2025

TRUSTS BILL

Declared Urgent

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (4.37 pm): When it comes to padding out time, we have just had the member for Miller take four minutes to make a zero contribution to the debate in this House. This adds to the zero contribution he has made to delivering anything on time or on budget, including Cross River Rail or any of the major railway projects. When it comes to urgency, the member for Miller is a complete waste of space. We are still waiting for the European Train Control System that he promised a decade ago. It has still not been delivered!

When it comes to urgency, you would not listen to the member for Miller or take any advice from him in any way, shape or form, because his performance here is no better than his performance in the Brisbane City Council when he skulked off all those years ago—with good reason, as well. His performance skulking around Queensland, going into Queensland Health facilities, has been no better. He is almost like a chatbot, the way he follows you around on LinkedIn and all of those things. When it comes to urgency, it took him 15 months to realise on LinkedIn that he was not the transport minister anymore. Oops! ‘Mr Social Media Expert’ forgot about that.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Let's have a bit of quiet in the chamber. Member, we are debating the urgency motion. If you concentrate your contribution on that, it will be appreciated.

Mr NICHOLLS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. If they are not going to ask me a question, I have to take the time somewhere else.

This matter of the Trusts Bill has gone on like the famous case in *Bleak House*. It is like Jarndyce v Jarndyce: by the time we get to the end of it no-one will even remember what it was all about. By the time we get there, if it had been under this Labor government, the only people who would have remembered it would have been the people who commissioned it, which would have been the then attorney-general, Jarrod Bleijie, and myself from that time in parliament.

It has taken a long time. There were four years in a row in estimates when I asked questions of the various attorneys-general, both the member for Waterford and the former member for Redcliffe, about when they were going to deliver on the Trusts Bill. Preceding my time I know the member for Toowoomba South asked about it. We pursued this religiously for the better part of seven years after the report was delivered. The then Labor government was so inept, so lazy and so hopeless that they could not deliver a bill that was almost written for them by the end of 2014.

Nothing shows how regressive and how conservative the Labor Party are than the fact they still want to maintain a bill that uses terminology from 100 years ago that was done in the Court of Chancery in the United Kingdom. That is the Labor Party for you: mired in the past, unable to look to the future, no plan for the state of Queensland and now with a bill they introduced in the dying days of a dying

government, thank goodness, that had one reading, the Attorney-General's introductory speech—and might I say there was a very comprehensive response from the shadow attorney-general at the time—and then the parliament ended and the bill lapsed. Now when the new Attorney-General does the diligent thing, does the right thing, and brings the bill back in, makes sure that proper consultation occurs, takes up the information from the interested parties—the stakeholders, the Law Society—actually listens to what they say, implements it and puts it into the bill and then brings it into the House and gives a fulsome and clear explanation going back to the Statute of Uses, if I recall correctly, that arcane piece of legislation that she spoke about, and we have an opportunity to debate it, when there is time on the agenda to debate it, what do the Labor Party opposition want to do? They say, 'It is all too hard.' That is the excuse of the last decade: 'It is all too hard. We don't understand it. We don't want to work hard. We would rather be yucking it up with our mates in the Qantas Club' or whatever it might be, 'than actually turning our minds to delivering for the people of Queensland.'

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: I heard the member for Miller saying something about, 'How does this benefit the people of Queensland?' I tell him that there are plenty of people who are beneficiaries of trusts, who are trustees of trusts, who understand and need trusts to work well. I reckon a cursory glance around any of the members' statement of interests would show that even members in this place have trusts.

Mrs Frecklington: Vulnerable people.

Mr NICHOLLS: There are vulnerable people and people who need legislation that is modern, that reflects modern and contemporary practices, that reflects modern and contemporary legal times, that needs to be passed and passed promptly. After a decade and a bit of dithering by a hopeless Labor government, we now have an Attorney-General who is bringing in the legislation and it will be debated and it will be passed promptly for the benefit of all Queenslanders. Let's get on it with it. Let's not tarry any longer.