




Speech By
Hon. Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 2 April 2025

MOTION

Queensland Redistribution Commission, Appointment

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (5.47 pm): Having listened to the member for Waterford, you would think that a meteor is about to hit the earth, the sun is about to explode and gravity is about to go upwards. There is absolutely nothing that you can believe about the member for Waterford and her commitment to making sure that there is a fair process in place. When I hear the member for Waterford utter the words 'susceptible to influence', I think back to people who might be susceptible to influence. I think back to whether they had gone on a skiing trip to Whistler. I think back to an estimates where the member for Waterford could not answer a simple question about how much taxpayers were paying to defend her friend Jackie Trad and who has to write not one but two letters to correct the record—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The matters that the minister is referring to are not contained within the motion or the amendment. I would ask you to draw him back to the detail of the motion or the amendment.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Clayfield, you know what is stated in the motion and the amendment. I ask you to talk to one or the other or both.

Mr NICHOLLS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I reflect on the comments that have been made by the member for Waterford in the debate, as I do with respect to the words 'truth, trust and integrity' when they are used by the member for Murrumba. When I think about truth, trust and integrity and the member for Murrumba, I think back to the renaming of the Lady Cilento hospital to the Children's Hospital. Members would all remember the survey and the member for Murrumba having the staff bots going in his office, changing the name down there. That was a real example of truth, trust and integrity in the exercise of the Westminster system that he referred to and the member for Waterford referred to.

We have heard a litany of mistruths in the character description of a hardworking public servant. It is a character description that is entirely undeserving of Mr Sosso, who has served both sides of politics, has served on native title tribunals and other Australian tribunals, and has also worked in the department of consumer affairs. They conveniently overlooked the time he worked in the period of the Labor government in consumer affairs, the department of emergency services, including as acting commissioner of consumer affairs, and many other jobs as well, including the first internal ombudsman of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority.

More than that, what those opposite do is impugn the integrity of the other two commissioners. They seem to say, by focusing on Mr Sosso, that the other two commissioners are going to be puppets of Mr Sosso, and that is a disgrace. They are the Electoral Commissioner, an independent person, independently appointed, and Judge Koppenol, a highly respected judge. What they do, and what the Labor Party always do, is besmirch the reputation of those who cannot fight back—no-one more so than the former member for Greenslopes and now member for Woodridge.

What they say now is that Mr Sosso, irrespective of his commitments, is going to overrule and override the decision of a former judge of the Federal Court and the commissioner in charge with administering the Electoral Act. That is what Labor say. They say clearly that all three of those people are unfit to carry on their job. That is exactly what the Labor Party will have the people of Queensland believe. They will say the whole three are able to be swayed by Mr Sosso. What a disgrace!

They come in here and use the privilege of this place, entirely inappropriately, to besmirch the name of a hardworking public servant. That is the nature of the Labor Party. They conveniently brush over their own record. They brush over the record of 2016, when they came in here on 18 minutes notice and changed the voting system—without any consultation, without talking to anyone—for their own political gain. They brush over their changes to the Electoral Act that prohibit people from making donations but keep their union paymasters firmly in their pocket, paying the way. The motion is a disgrace. The amendment should be supported and the Labor Party should be condemned.