




Speech By
Hon. Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 11 June 2025

MOTION

Redistribution Commission

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (6.04 pm): That is one of the most underwhelming arguments and cases I have ever heard put forward by the Labor Party in my time in this place, and I have heard plenty of them. When I listened to the Leader of the Opposition make his speech, he said that for Labor it is a standard. I was reminded of that old saying that the standard you walk past is the standard you accept. When it comes to the Labor Party, they do not just walk past a standard; they sprint past it. They make Gout Gout look like a tortoise when it comes to the standards they are prepared to accept on their side.

Let's have look at the standards they have previously accepted which go to the heart of the electoral system in this state. They took 18 minutes to pass laws that were recommended by Tony Fitzgerald. That is their great shining light on the hill—18 minutes. They came in here and did a dirty deal to change the voting method to ensconce themselves. What happened then? What did they say then? They changed the optional preferential voting system to ensconce themselves. That is the standard that the Labor Party hold themselves to. There was no debate and no consultation. They just walked in and passed it in 18 minutes. They are the guilty party when it comes to that.

Let's talk about the financial gerrymander they brought in. They said to their mates in the union movement, 'Donate as much as you like, fellas. Go for it. You can walk down the street, you can hold public servants to ransom in front of the Main Roads building but you can still write out a cheque. You can threaten to rape people.' Remember when they disgustingly said that? Did they hand one dollar back? Did they hand back one dollar of the dirty donations? No. They rewarded them. What did they do? They appointed Dave Hanna onto the board and they appointed Jade Ingham onto the board of the QBCC. They appointed them to boards that regulate every aspect of people's lives.

What happened when David Barbagallo, the chief of staff of the premier of the day, gave himself a grant? What was the story there? The premier of the day did not even look at his disclosure statement, but when they did it was incomplete—\$400,000 of taxpayers' money without any let or hindrance. There is a litany of them. Former premier Palaszczuk threatened to cut the Katter party's funding if they did not agree with her in this place—the only premier held in contempt of this parliament. That is the standard that the Labor Party sets.

They had Mike Summerell, the State Archivist, driven out of the country. Nikola Stepanov was put under the microscope and the Stormtroopers ran in there. Then we had the shadow treasurer and the cover-up of the Peter Carne and Jackie Trad matters. In estimates, she had to come back and correct the record twice because she would not answer questions properly. Then we go back and remember Peter Beattie—the only premier who changed the law to remove misleading parliament as an offence from the Criminal Code so he could protect Gordon Nuttall. That is the standard of the Labor Party. It is hypocritical of the Labor Party to come in here and say that they are the guardians of democracy in this place. It is a complete and utter fabrication.

Make no mistake that this is being driven by one thing and one thing only: grubby political action. They have nowhere to go. They cannot find a crack in what we are doing. They cannot make inroads, so what do they do? They do what the Labor Party always does—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: I take the interjection from the Deputy Premier—they cannot even ask a question in question time without being sat down on three occasions. That is the competency of the Labor Party. Go ahead and have another go.

Make no mistake: when they cannot win by playing fairly, they play the man. They get into the gutter, like they always have. It does not matter whether it is Mr Sosso—who Tony Fitzgerald has not said a word against—David Rosengren or Sam Sangster because they are the guilty party. They have nothing to stand on. Their case is hollow. They are truly the hollow men and women of the Queensland parliament.

Mr SPEAKER: Just before you resume your seat, member for Clayfield, you did use an unparliamentary term. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr NICHOLLS: Apologies. I withdraw.