




Speech By
Terry James

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

Record of Proceedings, 5 March 2026

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (EMPOWERING COUNCILS) AND OTHER
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr JAMES** (Mulgrave—LNP) (8.28 pm): I must agree with the member for Lytton when she said she did not know what she was talking about. Unless you are an ex-councillor who lived through the Belcarra era—

Ms PEASE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr JAMES: She said how good it was!

Ms PEASE: I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence and asks you to withdraw, member for Mulgrave.

Mr JAMES: I withdraw. The member for Lytton said how good the Belcarra legislation was. I can say it was an absolute nightmare. It pitted councillors against councillors, councillors against staff and vice versa, almost destroying local government, so I solely agree with the words of the member for Rockhampton as well.

This bill marks a fundamental step forward in restoring true local government by strengthening our councils, reducing red tape and empowering mayors, allowing Queensland communities to flourish under fit-for-purpose legislation. The necessity for reforming council frameworks is clear. Over the past decade, local government in Queensland has faced significant uncertainty and operational roadblocks. This was the legacy of the previous Labor policies—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mulgrave, I am afraid I have to ask you to resume your seat. Under the provisions of the order agreed to by the House, I call the minister to reply to the second reading debate.