



Speech By  
**Dr Christian Rowan**


**MEMBER FOR MOGGILL**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2019

**MOTION**

**Labour Movement**

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.42 pm): I rise to oppose the motion as moved by the Minister for Education, the member for McConnel. This government is desperate. Each and every sitting week when those opposite come into this place there is always a distraction. The reason they are doing this today is that they know the people of Australia, the people of Queensland, are working out who Bill Shorten really is and the fact that Bill Shorten poses a real and present danger to our economy and to industrial relations. Bill Shorten will lead to higher debt, more taxes and higher unemployment not only here in Queensland but right across Australia.

**Mr Furner** interjected.

**Dr ROWAN:** That is why the member for Ferny Grove is interjecting because he knows, like members on the other side of the House, that Labor poses a real risk to the economy and to Australia as well. We only have to look at the conclusions of the former High Court Justice Dyson Haydon when he was the commissioner of the royal commission looking into trade union governance and corruption and the dubious practices that were implemented and undertaken by militant unions: destroying documents, harassment, bullying and intimidation. There is declining union membership not only here in Queensland but also across Australia. Why are people abandoning unions? They are abandoning unions because they are not delivering what they used to deliver and people are seeing some of the dubious practices, the harassment, the bullying and the intimidation that is occurring not only here in Queensland but also right across Australia. We only have to look at the Oaky North Mine. Do members remember the vile language that was taking place there, how workers were harassed and bullied and intimidated on social media?

**Mr Watts** interjected.

**Dr ROWAN:** Children were threatened. I take the interjection from the member for Toowoomba North. It was terrible to see that disgraceful language and behaviour by militant unions and militant members of those unions. We have also seen disruptive action on many building and construction sites and even delayed construction in relation to the Queensland Children's Hospital. We know that Bill Shorten will abolish the Australian Building and Construction Commission, which was doing a great job in relation to oversight in this sector. Queensland has been the strike capital of Australia. Think about all the lost productivity that has happened in Queensland as a result of that.

I heard the member for Ferny Grove talk about the Tree of Knowledge. We know it is dead. As I have told this House before, it was not poisoned, it died of shame simply because the modern union movement is not what it used to be. All of this disgraceful conduct that we have seen by unionists, all the disgraceful conduct we have seen by many people—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! We will hear the member's contribution.

**Dr ROWAN:** That is why it has actually died. This motion is allocated time here today as a distraction from the real agenda that we should be pursuing. We know each and every sitting week that we get gagged on debates. There is an attack on democracy by the Labor party. Members do not get to speak on relevant bills. Those opposite put up this motion today in the middle of a federal election campaign as a distraction. The people of Queensland will not be conned. They will not be fooled by this Labor government which has more taxes, higher debt and higher unemployment. They know that if Bill Shorten is elected to be Prime Minister he poses a real and significant risk to industrial relations and our economy in Queensland.

Unfortunately for the unions, they are let down by Labor each and every time a Labor government is elected in Queensland. They are let down because there are more taxes, there is higher debt, higher unemployment and failed management in various departments, whether it be the health department with ambulance ramping, whether it be access block, whether it be longer surgical wait times, whether it be failures in the child safety system or whether it be not getting the infrastructure we need in our schools to ensure that our children get classrooms and facilities such as libraries. There is failed management across the tapeboard. That is why this motion should be condemned today. It should be seen for what it is. It is a political distraction. It is not appropriate that it should be debated here today. We should be talking about other issues that are important to Queenslanders, such as the failed management of this government, and we should be ensuring that members on this side of the House get to talk to important legislation on behalf of their local constituents.