




Speech by

David Gibson

MEMBER FOR GYMPIE

Hansard Thursday, 21 June 2012

CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr GIBSON** (Gympie—LNP) (9.59 pm): I rise because tonight has not been one of the finest nights of the Queensland parliament. What occurred in the gallery tonight we can very clearly put down to what occurs when a delicate issue is hijacked politically and becomes a political stunt. What occurred tonight, and the very clear unrest and distress that those people in the gallery felt, can be traced back to the manner in which this issue was hijacked for political purposes last year. What we saw with those seeds being sown in 2011 resulted in what occurred during the election campaign, with Katter's Australian Party running homophobic ads and a new low in Queensland politics. It is not appropriate for us as legislators, for us as people who represent all Queenslanders regardless of their sexual orientation or regardless of their faith, to adopt a language that is so politically charged that it results in what we saw in our parliament tonight.

We heard from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition that tonight is the winter solstice. What that means is that tomorrow the sun will shine a little bit longer than it did today. It will do so not because of anything that occurs here but because for millennia that is how it has occurred. For millennia people have fallen in love; for millennia people have fallen out of love. And for millennia legislators will deal with difficult issues. Our role is to deal with this issue in a manner that is befitting its seriousness. I hope that the House will continue its debates in such a manner.