



Speech by  
**Ronan Lee**

**MEMBER FOR INDOOROOPILLY**

Hansard Wednesday, 14 November 2007

---

**FEDERAL LIBERAL CANDIDATE FOR RYAN**

**Mr LEE** (Indooroopilly—ALP) (11.59 am): Last Tuesday the Westside Climate Action Group organised its inaugural candidates forum for candidates contesting the federal electorate of Ryan. The 80 or so locals who attended, including me, heard from six of the candidates, including Kevin07's candidate Ross Daniels. There was one notable omission.

**Ms Jones:** Who was missing?

**Mr LEE:** Michael Johnson was not there. I have previously spoken in this House about Michael Johnson's silence on environmental issues, but to snub a community group like this is ridiculous. But Michael Johnson has got form on this. According to the *Westside News*, Mr Johnson dodged a higher education candidates forum at UQ recently, and at an environmental forum in Jamboree recently—which he did turn up to—he left before question time. Mr Johnson's spokeswoman said that he had to leave 'because the forum was running a little bit over'. Some would say that is a little bit like Michael Johnson's representation in the electorate—it is a little bit over.

Fancy a forum running over time! People have a lot to say about climate change during a federal election campaign, and this supposedly is a surprise to Michael Johnson. But it is kind of understandable that a candidate would hide under his desk when asked to defend John Howard's record on the environment. Here is what Michael Johnson had to say in federal parliament on 18 September—

I am happy to put on the record that I do support nuclear being put into the mix as an option for Australia's future energy and environmental benefit.

Ryan deserves better than a federal MP who will not answer questions locally about their position on key issues, and we certainly deserve better than a federal MP who supports nuclear power generation. Mr Johnson needs to come clean about where in the Ryan electorate he wants to site the nuclear power station. Moggill? Near the Goodna bypass? In Priors Pocket? If he had turned up to the Toowong Climate Change Action Group's forum, I would have told him this in person: 'Michael Johnson, you will never build a nuclear power station in my electorate. You are wrong on the environment.' I am looking forward to helping make Ross Daniels the MP for Ryan.

Time expired.