



Speech by

John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

Hansard Tuesday, 21 April 2009

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.47 am): Mr Speaker, I join with the Premier and others here and congratulate you on your appointment. I want to take back everything that I said about the member for Toowoomba South and apply it now to you! Cross out all of those things.

Mr Speaker, I thank you for your opening address and welcome again all the members and the families who are joining the members here today. As I say, I pledge the support and cooperation of the opposition. We pledge to use standing and sessional orders appropriately. I note your comments relating to the member for Callide, which I hope means that we are not going to have any dissent motions, as I note we did not have in the last term. But I think that might have been because of the then Speaker. When I was the manager of opposition business, whenever I would ask him for a ruling he would say, 'I did not make a ruling,' so I was not able to dissent from it. Mr Speaker, I am sure the member for Callide is flattered by your comments. I hope that does not mean that he will not be vigorous in his pursuit of you should he think that the standing and sessional orders are not being used appropriately.

Mr Speaker, I can tell, as we all can, that you have an abiding appreciation for the history and traditions of this place. It is something that I feel personally and, as I say, I will be working hard with the members of the opposition, as the Leader of the Opposition, to make sure that we all enhance the standing of parliament and the parliamentary processes and, most importantly, the politicians within it. As I have already mentioned this morning, there are issues in the community about people's perceptions of politicians. Mr Speaker, I look forward to working with you in a good natured way. But I also say to the new members who have seen all the good natured activities this morning: do not be lulled into a false sense of security.

As I say, Mr Speaker, I look forward to having a meeting with you at the earliest opportunity and I look forward to working with you. I again congratulate you on your appointment.