



Speech by


**Jo-Ann Miller**

**MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA**

Hansard Tuesday, 21 August 2012

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## **BLACKSTONE AND DINMORE STATE SCHOOLS**

 **Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (9.22 pm): I want to talk about the complete hypocrisy of the LNP ministers in this government and as shadow ministers whilst in opposition. They say one thing in opposition and another when they are in government! Big men in opposition; little men in government. I speak on the issue of the Blackstone and Dinmore state schools.

**A government member** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock. The minister is not in his correct seat to interject. Cease the interjection.

**Mrs MILLER:** Thank you for your protection, Madam Speaker. I speak on the issue of the Blackstone and Dinmore state school sites in my electorate. Under the previous government those important school facilities were kept in the hands of the community because I fought hard and successfully for the need for them to be maintained for the use of the community. In the *Queensland Times* dated 21 January 2009, Lawrence Springborg said that the LNP leader rode into the school like a knight in shining armour, pledging to save the school from the fire-breathing dragons. 'We will keep Blackstone State School open. It's as simple as that,' he said. However, the armour is now tarnished. Right now, the armour needs some Brasso and a little bit of elbow grease.

On 11 November 2008 in this House, the current education minister and then opposition leader stated that I had 'lamey suggested' that I had saved the school buildings. He said that on a 'bleak October night' he sat in a 'rolled-gold Labor electorate' promising the community that he would be their saviour and now he is the minister in charge. What did he do in his first months as a P-plate minister? He sold the school sites from under the community.

Who is the lame minister now? Who is the lame duck minister who will not stand up for his undertakings to the community, but is rolling over to his masters, the Premier and the Treasurer, to slash and burn the facilities that our Labor government provided for the community? 'Oh!', they cry. 'They doth protest!' Now they are judge, jury and executioner on those historic school buildings.

Where are the community heroes now? Why aren't they fighting for facilities to be kept within the community? If they were fair dinkum, if they really believed what they said previously, they would be reopening those schools. I would welcome a commitment from them to reopen the schools or at least keep the facilities open to the community groups that utilise them. This is an issue that the disgraced LNP candidate said the community was very passionate about. We are always told how this government has the interests of the community at heart, but this action against the community shows that it has no heart at all when it comes to the interests of Ipswich. They need to give CPR to the members for Ipswich and Ipswich West, who seem to have departed from the earth because we do not hear a bo-peep from them now.

These ministers, these knights in shining armour, are now putting the sword to the communities to which they promised so much. They should live up to the code of knights and be true and honest in their word. Now they are in government they are being absolutely disgraceful. But be warned: the fight has just begun. As the Knights Templar prepared for battle, they sang the Psalm of David—

*(Time expired)*