




Speech By  
**Annastacia Palaszczuk**

**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Member for Redcliffe**

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.30 pm): This weekend everyone who calls the Redcliffe peninsula home will finally see some light at the end of what has been a very long and very dark tunnel. They will finally receive something of a reprieve from the sorry saga that has seen them miss out on proper representation in this place and has left them justifiably feeling that this government just does not care about them.

When the LNP finally expels the member for Redcliffe from its ranks on Saturday they will be carrying out the job that the Premier has failed to do over the last several months. The Premier, like the member for Redcliffe, has failed the people who called the peninsula home. He has refused to act, despite the daily dose of revelations relating to this member. He has failed at the most fundamental level to show any leadership on this matter. Instead, he has been content to sit back and allow this member to continue on a path that on a daily basis makes the plot of *The Bold and the Beautiful* look credible. The soap opera they have been subjected to has left the people of Redcliffe feeling deceived, desolate and abandoned—and rightfully so. The Premier, like the member for Redcliffe, has ignored those people, preferring to play politics rather than allowing them the representation they are entitled to. He has betrayed them. Instead of showing some backbone and getting rid of this member at the very first sign there was something very, very wrong—and that is by the admission of the LNP itself even before the 2012 state election—he has allowed the rot to set in.

The sorry footnote to this sorry saga is that, even though the member for Redcliffe will be expelled from his party this weekend as the Premier himself admitted to the House this morning, will the Premier and the LNP now sit back and be happy to accept the vote of the member for Redcliffe from the crossbenches? Rather than act decisively over the past several months as the evidence against this member grew to mountainous proportions, the Premier and this government elected to run a protection racket around the member for Redcliffe. They ignored the allegations that he continued to operate the retail traders association from his electorate office. They ignored the very concerning claims that he had taken control of the Regional Community Association Moreton Bay, installing his mates in key positions, establishing a board heavy with LNP members to the point where this group was found unfortunately to be insolvent.

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The reaction of members opposite in this chamber says it all. They know that on Saturday the member for Redcliffe will be expelled from the LNP and they will continue to accept his vote from the crossbenches.