




Speech By
Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Rudd, Mr K

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (2.45 pm): I rise in the chamber this afternoon to respond to an assertion that was made by the current Prime Minister in federal parliament on 17 June. At the time the Prime Minister was the backbench member for Griffith and still plotting his leadership comeback. In his adjournment speech to the House of Representatives Mr Rudd spoke about the public meeting he had recently attended at the Whites Hill State College in relation to the potential sale of the adjacent school sporting ovals. I was present at this meeting, alongside my colleague the member for Greenslopes. In his 17 June speech to the House of Representatives Mr Rudd accused us both of making a backflip and asserted that we had had a 'road to Damascus' conversion up close. I find it perplexing that the federal member for Griffith made this verbose assertion given that he arrived late to the meeting. We simply told residents present that evening that we would, firstly, listen to their concerns and, secondly, represent their views to the government. I put it to this chamber: is that not the role of your local member of parliament?

It is interesting for Mr Rudd to accuse me and one of my parliamentary colleagues of backflipping. I would like to pick up on this notion of backflipping. Prior to the 2007 federal election Mr Rudd proudly promoted his economic conservative values. I do not know anyone who describes themselves as an economic conservative and ends up borrowing \$100 million every single day. This debt has now reached in excess of \$254 billion, and Labor is starting to push to increase our debt ceiling to over \$300 billion. Love that money tree!

Let us briefly take a closer look at Mr Rudd—behind the Twittersphere. What do you see up close, behind the facade? Superimproved, pasteurised and homogenised, with 33 per cent more sparkle—Mr Rudd 2.0 is more interested in style than substance. How about we look at Mr Rudd's policy marvels? This is the Prime Minister who wasted up to \$8 billion on school hall rip-offs and was the architect of the pink batts disaster, which saw a budget blow-out of more than \$1 billion. Again, this was policy on the run. This is the Prime Minister who removed temporary protection visas and closed offshore-processing centres on Nauru and Manus Island. This demonstrable policy failure has led to more than 700 unauthorised boats carrying more than 50,000 people entering our sovereign nation. FuelWatch, Grocery Watch, the alcopops tax, changes to fringe benefits tax recording, the carbon tax, the mining tax, NBN cost blow-outs and Machiavellian, predatory behaviour—the list goes on and on.

Mr Rudd is very happy to cherry-pick the local issues. Then he becomes a community champion for the electorate of Griffith. People are sick and tired of being used by the Prime Minister as a photo opportunity, because that is the only time they see him in between trips to strut the world stage, which he pines for as his real constituency. I would like to end with an apt quote from great poet TS Eliot, who wrote—

Half the harm that is done in this world is due to people who want to feel important. They don't mean to do harm; but the harm does not interest them. Or they do not see it, or they justify it because they are absorbed in the endless struggle to think well of themselves.