



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**

**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 February 2014

### **MOTION: REDCLIFFE ELECTORATE**



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.29 pm): I move—

That this House:

- notes that the constituents of the electorate of Redcliffe have been without proper representation in this House for almost two years;
- notes that the Premier was a key supporter of the disgraced former member for Redcliffe;
- notes that services in Redcliffe have declined under the Newman government, particularly in relation to health and community services;
- rejects the Newman government's belated interest in Redcliffe in the last month as 'too little, too late';
- condemns the Premier, his leadership team and the LNP for their failure to take action sooner against the former member for Redcliffe, Scott Driscoll.

This is a debate I wanted to have with the Premier in Redcliffe. I issued a challenge to the Premier very clearly to have a town hall meeting in the heart of Redcliffe. Redcliffe residents could have come along and asked the Premier and me questions about issues in Redcliffe. Did the Premier accept my challenge? Did he accept my challenge to go to Redcliffe and debate the matters of Scott Driscoll and this government's neglect of the Redcliffe electorate? No, he did not. I am prepared to hold a town hall meeting in any city or any town of Queensland any day of the week. I challenge the Premier to come along and listen to Queenslanders when I conduct my town hall meetings in future. There will be a seat next to me for him.

A town hall meeting in Redcliffe would have given families the opportunity to come and ask the Premier, 'Why, Premier, did you stand by Scott Driscoll for so long? Why has your government ignored us for so long? Premier, why have our electricity bills been increasing for so long? Premier, why have our water bills been increasing for so long?' But, most importantly, the people of Redcliffe would have asked the Premier, 'Why have you ignored us for so long?' The challenge today to the Premier is to answer the question before the announcement of this by-election, 'How many times has the Premier visited the seat of Redcliffe?' How many times has the Premier of our state been to Redcliffe? I am looking forward to this answer because this government has treated the Redcliffe families with contempt.

The clear fact is that this LNP government is failing to listen to Queenslanders. It is very disappointing that when they were first elected they promised to govern with 'humility, grace and dignity'. I have not seen any elements of that displayed by those opposite. In less than two weeks the people of Redcliffe will get to have their say not just on who will be their voice in this parliament—and I note that it would have been very easy for the government to call the election so that a member for Redcliffe could have joined us here today, a voice for the people of Redcliffe. It has been almost three months now since that member, Scott Driscoll, whom the Premier stood by time and time again, left this parliament. Earlier this afternoon I put on the public record very clearly that the people of Redcliffe are very upset about the very short period they have in which to lodge postal votes and prepoll votes.

This is what the families are telling me. I do note that last week I believe all of the LNP were up at O'Reilly's for a love-in or a bit of a caucus retreat to make everyone feel better.

**Mr Pitt:** *Kumbaya*.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Yes, maybe they were singing *Kumbaya*. Did they go on the flying fox? Did they do a bit of a ropes course? While the LNP were up in the hinterland talking to each other, patting themselves on the back, telling them what a great job they were doing, the Labor caucus was out doorknocking, talking to real people. That is where we were. We were out there doorknocking and talking to the people of Redcliffe.

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I enjoyed that experience—we all did—because it brought home to me the reality of the situation. The people of Redcliffe blame this Premier for Scott Driscoll. It was very clear. This arrogant Premier, this know-it-all Premier, rushes through laws—not workable laws. He does not listen to people—a 'one-man band' I think was the term. He does not listen. The people of Redcliffe say, 'This government, Annastacia, is out of touch.'

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** You can laugh. Let them laugh. The reality is that the people of Redcliffe feel let down.

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order, members.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** There are people here who have the opportunity to speak in the debate so maybe their voices will be heard here this evening. Unfortunately, there is no voice for Redcliffe. It would have been great to have had a debate with the member for Redcliffe participating, but there is no member for Redcliffe. In less than two weeks the people of Redcliffe will have the opportunity to elect a hardworking local woman, Yvette D'Ath, to be the next member for Redcliffe. I have known Yvette for over 14 years. She has got integrity. She has got honesty. She is hard working. She has the respect of the local community.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order, members. There are too many interjections in the chamber. I know it is an evening debate, but I ask for fewer interjections. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Yvette D'Ath will make a great member for Redcliffe. However, we know it is going to be tough because there are 74 members in this arrogant government—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** There are 73 members in his arrogant government. We know it is going to be tough because the swing that is required is around 10 per cent. I want to put that on the record. A 10 per cent swing is needed to ensure that the Labor candidate gets up. It is going to be tough.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order, members.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We are going to make sure that we get the message out for the people of Redcliffe and to the families as often as we possibly can that Labor is listening; Labor understands their concerns; Labor knows that families are hurting in Redcliffe; Labor knows that this LNP government forgot about them for nearly two years. They turned their back on the people of Redcliffe. They turned their back and now in the last couple of weeks they have come out to Redcliffe with the money bags promising things left, right and centre. Go ahead, make those promises because the people of Redcliffe know what their game is.

The people of Redcliffe will not be fooled. Whilst those opposite were enjoying the delights of O'Reilly's, perhaps they all should have been out doorknocking in their own electorates listening to Queenslanders—listening to the issues and responding to the issues that matter—because Queenslanders are not happy with this government. Queenslanders are quietly seething about what this government has been doing and what it will be doing into the future. Redcliffe deserves better than an LNP member.

*(Time expired)*