




Speech By
Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

Record of Proceedings, 21 May 2015

VACANCY IN SENATE OF COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA: ELECTION OF SENATOR

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (3.16 pm): As a descendant of the Jagera and Mununjali people, Joanna Lindgren is a lady with a past as ancient and vibrant as the land we meet upon, and her future is committed to using her considerable ability to help our state and our nation prosper for the benefit of all. It is an honour to endorse this motion in the Queensland state parliament to install Ms Joanna Lindgren as our senator elect. After the passage of this resolution she will be sworn in and will take her place in the Australian Senate where she will fill the very able shoes of the Queensland LNP senator Brett Mason, who has resigned to take up an ambassadorial post.

Ms Lindgren stands tall on her own talents and qualifications; however, it is historic that we are today endorsing a woman of Indigenous heritage who stands taller still on the wonderful legacy of her great-uncle, the late senator Neville Bonner. Neville Bonner was, of course, Australia's first Indigenous MP who was much loved, much respected and a member of the Liberal Party. We can all be proud of him, and I am sure we will also be proud of Joanna Lindgren. Ms Lindgren successfully won the LNP nomination to fill this vacancy against eight other strong candidates. It was a worthy competition and a good process. More than 250 delegates listened and weighed up who would best fill this spot.

Joanna has served Australia as a soldier, a community volunteer and as a teacher. Education in particular is her passion. Her hard work to put herself through university to become a qualified teacher meant that she mainly worked in schools which were located in lower socio-economic areas, where she was able to have a positive influence on our young people. Ms Lindgren has impressed me greatly with her ability to communicate and to connect and her commitment to service. I believe it is a great qualifier for higher office to first serve in the community. I believe Joanna is a very qualified for higher office, and she has certainly demonstrated service to her community. I have no doubt she will serve Queensland as well, and with great pleasure I endorse this motion.