




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (5.54 pm): I reconfirm my allegiance to our Queen, Elizabeth II, Queen of Australia and Her other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth. On that note I take privilege in congratulating the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge on the recent birth of Princess Charlotte. I am sure all honourable members in this House would pay their respect and acknowledgement and congratulations to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. I also acknowledge in this House His Excellency the Governor in the opening of the 55th Parliament of Queensland.

In 2009, the 53rd Parliament of Queensland, I rose in this chamber as a new member of parliament and announced in my maiden speech the enormous privilege and responsibility the great voters Kawana had bestowed upon me at that time. Today in the 55th Parliament of Queensland the honour to be again elected as their representative is no less humbling, no less of a privilege and a reconfirmation of my commitment to serve and represent my constituents of Kawana.

I also recall affirming in my maiden speech that all members in this chamber, regardless of political persuasion we may represent and regardless of any office that we hold, are representatives for our constituents foremost. Members on the floor will do well to remember that we have an obligation as representatives of our electorates to vote for policy and legislation for what we believe is in the best interests of our constituents and the people of Queensland more broadly.

I acknowledge my former colleagues who no longer have that privilege of representing their fellow constituents in this parliament. I wish each former member the very best in whatever capacity their talents, interests and skills lead them to. It would be remiss of me not to mention the members of the Queensland Police Service who provided protective services for former members of the cabinet and my family during the last term, which was a difficult time when dealing with important law reform matters that some people took serious objection to. My wife, Sally, and I, along with our three children, are very grateful for the care and protection afforded to our family.

Whilst I am speaking of my family, may I also thank Sally, my wife, and our three wonderful kids—Taylor, Madison and Jasper—for their support and unconditional love. Of course without their love and support I know that I would struggle to fulfil the responsibilities I have to my electorate and to the people of Queensland. I would like to thank all of the people involved in the Kawana campaign, particularly my parents, Pieter and Christine, who continue to provide their enduring guidance and support to Sally and I and their three grandchildren who adore them perpetually.


I must thank my campaign team, who are very similar to the campaign team I had in 2009, for the great work that they did in the election of Kawana in 2009, 2012 and 2015. We know that when we serve in this place we cannot do this job without a team of support around us no matter where we sit in this place. So I want to thank my campaign team for the effort they put into the Kawana campaign because the result was pretty good. I am still here, so it worked.

I thank and acknowledge the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for taking on the onerous responsibilities of opposition leader and deputy opposition leader. It is a hard job. They have a hard job in keeping the government to account. So I want to acknowledge and pay tribute to them today and the team and all my colleagues who are in that team, particularly the new members of parliament representing some very diverse areas in Queensland.

The Kawana electorate I would say is, if not one of the most beautiful areas, the most beautiful area not only on the Sunshine Coast but in all of Queensland.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Well, no. I take all of these objectionable interjections from my honourable colleagues. I know across the state members of parliament are very parochial about these sorts of things—I more than most others. Kawana is the best place, although I know Kawana is actually a suburb in Rockhampton as well. The best Kawana is of course along the South-East Queensland coast within the area I represent.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (7.36 pm), continuing: I continue my remarks from before the dinner break and before history was made in that in my recollection the only member of parliament who has convictions a mile long and who is subject to alleged domestic violence allegations gave his support to the Labor Party. The members of the Labor Party who are in this chamber should be ashamed of themselves for accepting the vote of a person subject to allegations of domestic violence in Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month and despite the Premier flying to the electorate of Cook and Far North Queensland only a few short weeks ago and putting a full-page ad in the local paper saying, 'My government's all about integrity and accountability.' Despite the fact that it paid for an ad to be taken out in the local papers saying that this man should not be serving in this place and that this man, based on his criminal convictions and obviously the misrepresentations he made to the Queensland Labor Party, should not be in this place and does not deserve to be in this place, does not fit the community standards and does not fit the Labor Party standards, only a few short weeks later everything has changed and the government is happy to take his vote.

I hope members opposite feel proud of themselves that they took the vote from the member for Cook tonight—a man subject to domestic violence allegations in the month of antidomestic violence. So well done to the Labor Party and well done to the members opposite! I think this issue has a little more to go, so let us hope the members opposite fully appreciated and thought out their processes before they took the vote of that member who sits up there and who will always be owned by the Labor Party. Despite the Premier coming out and saying, 'He's gone. He's out of the Labor Party,' those opposite took his vote tonight. They took his vote to stay in government, they took his vote to stay in power and they should all be ashamed of it. I think the Queensland community appreciates and fully understands what took place tonight.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. We saw the clapping. We saw the handshakes. We see them laughing there. I am talking about the month of domestic violence. It is a tragedy that governments right around Australia have not been able to tackle this issue as best they should or as quickly as they should in terms of reducing the incidence of domestic violence. Crime rates across Queensland are reducing, apart from the incidence of domestic violence, and the members opposite sat in this place before and took a vote from a member of this chamber who is subject to domestic violence allegations. They should all be ashamed of themselves.

Mr Pyne interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I look forward to the member for Cairns going back to his community in Cairns and explaining how he took the vote of a member of parliament with a criminal history, of looking the next constituent who comes to him who has been subjected to domestic violence in the eye and saying, 'I had the pleasure of voting with the member for Cook on that particular night.' Shame on him!

As I was saying before we took the break and history was made where, as I have indicated, the Labor Party continued to support the member for Cook—I do note that they are a bit silent on that now. I think they are a bit ashamed. I note that the leadership team has gone and they are all a bit quiet. They do not know what happened. I was talking about the support that one has in getting into this place. Without that support we could not represent the great electorates that we represent, such as the great electorate of Kawana. In that great electorate there are the suburbs of Sippy Downs, Minyama, Buddina, Parrearra, Birtinya, Warana, Bokarina, Wurtulla, Meridan Plains, Currimundi, Aroona and Little Mountain. The Kawana electorate enjoys the most beautiful beaches with rich, soft

sand and beautiful waterways. When I get an occasional weekend off, I enjoy nothing more than on a Sunday taking my boat down to the water with my family and enjoying all that the Kawana electorate has to offer and, more broadly, the Sunshine Coast.

We have seen the Labor Party government elected without a plan. We have seen the government elected without any policies. We have seen the government approaching 100 days in office. We have seen in that 100 days no inspiration. We have seen in that 100 days no discussion with the Queensland people about the hopes, aspirations and visions that Queenslanders should have based on the government's policies. I have to say that, unfortunately—but not surprisingly—we have seen a government, particularly today, made up of a bunch of incompetent ministers. I look at the honourable minister over there who has a look on her face as if she is thinking, 'What on earth did he say?' I am talking about her. Yes, I am. She is one of the many on that bench of incompetent ministers whom I am referring to. I shake my head in that we have had five weeks from the last sitting of parliament and we still have ministers who do not understand their portfolios; we have ministers who do not understand the issues that impact Queenslanders. We have the Attorney-General, who has just walked in, as the chief negotiator with an alleged domestic violence perpetrator. The first law officer is the chief negotiator with the member for Cook.

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I notice that the opposition leader said it a few times tonight and the Attorney-General never once stood up to take objection. She never once interjected to say that that was not true. We take the Attorney-General's silence on that issue earlier in the debate this evening that the Attorney-General, the first law officer, is the chief negotiator with an alleged perpetrator of domestic violence on, from what I see, two women in this state.

So we have a concoction of incompetent ministers, we have a government without a plan, we have no policies and, unfortunately, we do not have business confidence. We have seen in the CCIQ pulse surveys that have been released that the business community has no confidence in this government. In fact, business confidence in Queensland it is the lowest it has been for six years. That says something about a government that has been in for a short period. I knew that it would happen at some stage. I knew that business confidence would plummet. I knew that the people of Queensland would not have confidence in the government. But if people asked me if I thought it would happen in fewer than 100 days, even for a Labor socialist government, I would have said no. But I have been surprised a couple of times.

This government has managed to achieve the unachievable. In fewer than 100 days, business confidence is at an all-time low. The government has managed to achieve a 100-day plan that you could write on the back of your palm, because there is nothing there. At the end of this week the members of the Labor Party will go back to their electorates and they will tell people what a wonderful government they have been.

After 100 days in office, what have they achieved? They are talking a lot. They have set up some inquiries. I think if you add today's announcements, we are probably up to about 38 to 40 inquiries, or boards or bodies. We are getting back to exactly what the Labor Party did in office for 12 to 15 years in this state. The ministers do not take responsibility. They have no accountability. They cannot make decisions, so they outsource it. They outsource government decisions, they outsource ministerial decisions to boards, bodies, reviews and committees so much so that the Attorney-General—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Could we just reduce the amount of background noise? I just warn the member for Kawana that if you are provocative you will get it back.

Mr BLEIJIE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I fully understand that. Thank you very much. I have not even got to my honourable colleague the police minister yet, but I will get there in a minute. I notice that she is very quiet today, even though she is a fashion icon out there with the trade union movement. Even though it was a fake, in the photo it looked pretty fashionable.

I love the fact that we have a police minister who said in her maiden speech that she comes from the working class. She then attends the Labour Day march in a Louis Vuitton belt that retails for about \$600 on eBay. So she is the working-class minister with a Louis Vuitton belt. But she claims that it is a fake. We can only assume that it is a fake that has been made in a sweatshop somewhere. So I see that she is protecting the rights of the workers right around the globe! Well done!

Mr Bennett interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from my honourable colleague behind me. The fakes are certainly there and they are all sitting in the front row. I think the Queensland community now realise that they have been sold a pup. They have a government that is without a plan. As I said, you would

not need a piece of paper to write down this government's 100-day plan. There is nothing to write on it. The police minister's first policy was to release prisoners. The Attorney-General's first policy was to set up some commissions of inquiry, give support to the member for Cook—be the chief negotiator for the member for Cook, an alleged domestic violence perpetrator.

I now get to the health minister. Incidentally, I note that last week he came to the great electorate of Kawana. He stood at the Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital—a \$2 billion hospital that the LNP started—and claimed credit for the hospital. He said that if the LNP had its way it would not have built this hospital—that it was nothing to do with the LNP. I can tell the honourable health minister that when he was last in government and sat around the cabinet table looking at the Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital all the Labor Party provided was a green pasture for the kangaroos that used to be on that property. The first thing that we did in government was get the deal done. We brought forward construction by six months and it is going gangbusters. The hospital came up from out of the ground. Under the Labor Party it was a vacant piece of ground. Those opposite think that it is an achievement to have a vacant piece of land sitting there without a hospital on it.

Mr Rickuss: They did that with the high school in Highfields as well.

Mr BLEIJIE: Yes. If the Labor Party had retained government in 2012 it still would have been a vacant piece of land. The ambulances would have had to have been four-wheel drives, going up and dodging the kangaroos to let the patients off. The fact is that the LNP started the hospital. The LNP brought forward the building of the hospital by six months. The Sunshine Coast community is not fooled by the stunt of the health minister, Cameron Dick, saying it is Labor Party policy. The Labor Party not only had the green piece of land, it delayed the hospital by two years.

Mrs Miller interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: The member for Bundamba was in government. She remembers. The Labor Party's Andrew Fraser got up and said, 'We cannot afford to build this hospital anymore; we are going to delay it by two years.' The LNP was elected and we got on with the job of delivering the \$1.8 billion hospital. It will be a world-class hospital no thanks to the Labor Party.

Mrs Miller interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I will happily take the interjections from the member for Bundamba, the former parliamentary secretary to corrupt Gordon Nuttall who is sitting in one of her prisons at the moment. I hope she has looked after her former colleague.

Mr Cripps interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Or perhaps, member for Hinchinbrook, when I made my speech a few weeks ago about the police minister's new policy about letting prisoners out, she had Gordon Nuttall in her mind. Maybe he was one of these non-violent offenders she was going to release into the community—protecting her old boss, corrupt Gordon Nuttall.

We have a police minister who wants to bring the Rapid Action Patrol back into the district at the Gold Coast. There is no funding past June. There is no Jim Keogh running it. Basically the hundred officers there will be moulded back into the bureaucracy. The Rapid Action Patrol on the Gold Coast makes 100 arrests a week. Why would she stop something that is working so well? Those opposite cannot afford to fund it because they have no plan to fund it. What it comes down to is that those opposite do not support our men and women in blue on the beat. They have a police minister who does not support them on the beat.

In relation to my electorate, our commitment to the people of the Sunshine Coast and Kawana is to hold this government to account because it made promises—not many, but it did make a few promises during the election campaign. More importantly, we will hold it to account on the economy. There was a lot of talk about jobs, but the only jobs they seem to be protecting at the moment is union jobs. Going through ministers' diaries, they have more meetings with union officials than constituents. We know that there are elected members opposite who were the front men and women of the union movement. That is right, put your hands up. We know that they owe the unions. They are the spokespersons for the unions. Earlier I saw the former member for Keppel, Paul Hoolihan, around here, probably supporting the new member for Keppel. He told parliament a few years ago that the union movement is the political wing of the Labor Party. They owe the unions and they will owe the unions in this place. It will not be policy based on what the people of Queensland want, it will be policy based on what the thugs in the union movement want. That is where we are getting to in Queensland—what the thugs in the union movement want, such as letting them have access to construction sites. They are only interested in their own jobs, not building jobs and creating the future that Queenslanders deserve and want.

(Time expired)