




Speech By
John-Paul Langbroek
MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Member for Cook

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.46 pm): The front page of the *Cairns Post* says it all about the situation in Cook and the sentiments of the people in that community about their representative in this parliament. It is time for the member for Cook to just go. I table a copy of that front page.

Tabled paper: Front page of the *Cairns Post*, dated 14 October 2015 [[1386](#)].

What we saw in this parliament last night was the desperate attempts of a government that is clinging to power with the support of the member for Cook. The actions by the Premier have effectively made the member for Cook one of the most powerful people in this state. Every vote that this government accepts from the member for Cook is now tainted by the actions of the members opposite last night. That was their opportunity to take a stance against the behaviour of the member for Cook.

It was also disappointing to see the actions of the member for Nicklin, someone who has been a long-term advocate for maintaining and improving the integrity of this parliament, voting to effectively give the member for Cook the balance of power in Queensland. Earlier this year we supported the appointment of an independent Speaker of this parliament and we are disappointed that some of the strong statements made at that time about improving the standards in this place have seemingly fallen by the wayside.

Despite the pattern of behaviour by this member, the Premier has continually failed the test of leadership on this issue. The actions of the member for Cook continue to be a distraction for this government and this parliament. Those opposite, with the support of the member for Nicklin, failed to effectively deal with that last night.

The Premier said in April this year that the people of Cook deserve the highest standards from their MP. She told them that she promised the people of Queensland that she would lead a government of integrity and honesty. By the actions of the Premier and the government and the inaction in dealing with the member for Cook, the Premier broke that promise last night in this parliament. In doing so, she has failed the people of Cook and the people of Queensland. When the government accepts the vote of the member for Cook they are effectively condoning his behaviour. That means that every motion that is passed and every bill that is passed is because the Premier has agreed to accept the tainted vote of the member for Cook.

At what point does the Premier to say enough is enough? The concern from the elders in local communities around Cook is that they have had enough. Why is this not good enough for this Premier? We saw the comments yesterday from the mayors of Kowanyama and Yarrabah and now today we see the concerns of the local councillor in Napranum who said, 'We can't have elders doing that ... we can't have that sort of people as leaders of our country.'

We have heard lots of rhetoric about consultation, lots of rhetoric about listening, lots of rhetoric about higher standards, lots of rhetoric about calling out men for reprehensible actions towards women in our society and lots of rhetoric about the need to take a strong stand on the issue of respect for women in relationships. Queenslanders expect better of a Premier and Deputy Premier who rail and rant publicly about their disgust at the behaviour of the member for Cook, but the Premier is now complicit with the member for Nicklin in co-owning every decision of this parliament which will be determined by the member for Cook's casting vote. Mr Speaker, with the greatest of respect, I think that your comments after casting the deciding vote last night also should be explained to this House and to the people of Queensland.