




Speech By
John-Paul Langbroek
MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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MOTION

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (6.24 pm): As the member for Kawana said, isn't it remarkable to see the big guns come out on behalf of Labor? The member for Woodridge is opposite. Last night he said that we should come into this place and be generous and big hearted, but he is not generous and big hearted enough to stand up for the member for Bundamba and neither is the Premier nor the Deputy Premier. Instead, we have heard from the member for Ferny Grove and the member for Keppel. What did the member for Ferny Grove have to speak about? The fact that the police minister had visited and given a couple of awards. Wow! That is pretty spectacular. I am not sure if the member for Bundamba would regard that as an operational matter, in which case she would not have been there presenting those awards. The member for Keppel suggested that under the member for Bundamba the statistics have been impressive, but that is down to Jack Dempsey and the LNP government. That is exactly why those statistics are so good. Those 250 extra police are as a result of the 1,100 that we promised in the lead-up to the 2012 election. It is our job to hold this government to account. That is why I say to the member for Ferny Grove that we have been picking on someone who obviously has been letting down the side in the ministry, so much so that none of her ministerial colleagues are prepared to stand up and defend her.

Because of the assertions of the member for Bundamba that she does not get involved in operational matters, it is obvious that the crime rate has gone down despite her and not because of her. The member for Keppel has just said that women deserve to be treated respectfully in the workplace. Why then is it that the member for Bundamba was able to use a throat-slitting gesture to the member for Mount Ommaney? Was that treating women in the workplace respectfully? When advised of that the Premier, who wanders around in a little blissful haze of ignorance, said, 'I didn't know about that'. It is just another thing that the Premier does not know. She had to be told about it—'It's a staff member who must have done it; another minister who has done something off his own bat.' She was not even aware that the member for Bundamba had done a throat-slitting gesture at another woman in this House, in her workplace, yet, as the member for Keppel says, all women deserve to be treated respectfully. We do not hear anything from the member for Waterford or the member for Algester, yet we are constantly talking about domestic violence and respect for women in this place and in the workplace.

Another important issue is that in this House members have to stand up for their own areas. On 7 July the *Queensland Times*, under the heading, 'Jo-Ann Miller has betrayed Ipswich', stated—

During her time in opposition Jo-Ann Miller was the attack dog for the ALP.

I think we all remember that. When she sat over here she was a different person from the one we see now. The article stated further—

There were few parliamentary sittings where she wasn't standing up and shouting down LNP decisions she felt weren't in the best interests of her community.

But it now seems the bark in the dog has become an inaudible whimper.

That was from her own local Ipswich paper.

She is also at odds with her fellow MP the member for Ipswich West. When the story came out about the closure of the communications centre, the member for Ipswich West said that he intended to hold talks with the police minister. Mr Madden was quoted as saying—

I want to talk to the Minister as soon as possible because I am concerned by this announcement.

I want to hear from her as to why this is necessary, but I am hoping to have the decision reversed.

Our government has a commitment to employ more public servants in Ipswich but this goes against that commitment.

I want to increase the number of public servants employed in Ipswich, so I would be disappointed by any decision that saw fewer public servants employed here.

Last week, under pressure and in an attempt to keep her job, the police minister announced a stay of execution for the communications centre in Ipswich for six months. That is all the people of Ipswich can be reassured about. Paul Pisasale, who I think received over 80 per cent of the primary vote in the last Ipswich election, is coming up for re-election. Obviously, this has been about a vendetta. It is alleged that the police minister recruited another member of that council to try to bring down the mayor.

It is inappropriate behaviour for a minister of the Crown. There is no better evidence of that than the fact that no ministerial colleagues have stood to defend her. We have had those opposite say, 'Get up and read a speech. Make up anything you can for five minutes.' It is not good enough. It is not good enough for this police minister and this government, which has clearly been found wanting in appointing this person in the first place. That is why members should be supporting the motion before the House.