




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 10 May 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Electoral District of Toowoomba South, By-Election

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.37 am): Since parliament's last sitting, the member for Toowoomba South formally resigned his seat in this place to contest the federal election. Dr McVeigh's resignation means that the people of Toowoomba South—only 15 months after a state election and less than two months after local government elections and a fixed-four-year-term referendum—will have to vote at a state by-election as well as a federal election.

I am always conscious of the inconvenience multiple elections within short time frames places on people. As members would be aware, the Prime Minister has called a federal election for 2 July. I considered the option of having the Toowoomba South by-election on the same day as the federal election. However, I have decided against it. To have a state by-election on the same day as a federal election requires permission from the Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minister during the caretaker period. Clearly, with the campaign in full swing, that would prove difficult at best. I also want to ensure that there is no clash with the midyear school holidays.

Therefore, this morning I have advised the Governor of my intention to call a by-election for the seat of Toowoomba South for 16 July. Again, I understand the frustrations of the people of Toowoomba South when it comes to voting on all three levels of government in the space of four months, but the decision of Dr McVeigh to vacate the seat and run for a federal seat means that this is unavoidable.