




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 24 May 2016

MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Liberal National Party

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.33 am): I rise to outline the actions we have taken and the travels we have had over the past week in Queensland as we have fulfilled our promise, with renewed energy, enthusiasm and vigour, to go out and see the people of Queensland and listen to what they have to say. Rather than holding closed-shop committee meetings and little gatherings of union workforces and task forces around the place, we have been out there talking to Queenslanders the length and breadth of the state, starting off out in Longreach after parliament rose just over a week ago.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition and I travelled out there at the request of local people, together with the local member for Gregory, Lachlan Millar, to talk to local people and visit the Queensland State Sheep Show and the Longreach Show. I was very pleased to be able to catch up with a number of friends from out in that part of the world and listen to their concerns. If there is one concern that the people of Western Queensland have, it is that this government is asleep at the wheel and has no plans to look after them and their future.

Having accepted the invitation to attend the State Sheep Show and the Longreach Show, we were informed that the agriculture minister had similarly received an invitation but had declined to attend the single largest show brought together to deal with the sheep industry. However, having arrived in Longreach early on Friday morning, we were informed at around 2.30 or three o'clock that the agriculture minister had decided that she did want to attend. We learned that the government jet was flown out there late on Friday afternoon. It zoomed in and landed at Longreach Airport. The minister was duly chaperoned to the motel, where she was ensconced.

We thought we might see her at the show itself. We thought she might come along to the sponsors drinks afterwards, perhaps meet the entrants in the Queensland rural showgirl competition and have a chat with them—

Mrs Frecklington: Show some interest.

Mr NICHOLLS: Show some interest, as the deputy says. But no, there was not a sign of her—not a skerrick. We thought we would go to the opening night of the ball. Indeed, the minister did turn up. She did not talk to anyone but she did show up. She was obviously shown courtesy by organisers Margie Webb, Karen Huskisson and the crew out there. Rather than going the next morning to the show—it started at 7.30; you can go and have a chat with the people over bacon and eggs for breakfast, which we did—the minister got back on the jet and shot out again. The interest of the Minister for Agriculture was something to behold. I must say, it was remarked on not so favourably or kindly by members out there.

I was also pleased to inspect and look at the Queensland ram of the year. As reported in *Queensland Country Life*—

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: The member for Ashgrove does not like greyhounds, obviously; she has a set against greyhounds. The winner of the Queensland State Sheep Show was from Mt Ascot. The win represented the first time in five years that a Queensland sheep had been announced the winner of the Queensland State Sheep Show—

Ms Jones interjected.

An opposition member: Who was it? Who won the Sheep Show?

Mr NICHOLLS: I will let members know who won.

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Leader of the House!

Mr NICHOLLS: The article in *Queensland Country Life* states—

The announcement was greeted with much excitement at the culmination of two days—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! There are too many interjections, mostly from this side of the House. It is becoming very difficult to even hear what the opposition leader is saying. Could people please keep their interjections to a minimum.

Mr NICHOLLS: The article states—

The announcement was greeted with much excitement ... [by] Mitchell's Brumpton family.

In what may be a good omen for the LNP, Nigel announced that the stud's newest champion would be named Nikko in honour of new opposition leader Tim Nicholls, who visited the show along with deputy Deb Frecklington.

That is a small point as to the resilience and the strength of the people of Western Queensland, who are in their fourth and fifth year of drought and who are battling the problems of wild dogs and large flocks of kangaroos. There is more work to be done out there. It is not being done by the Palaszczuk Labor government, which is asleep at the tiller of the plane. Only the LNP has a plan to get Queensland moving.

(Time expired)