



Speech By  
**Tim Nicholls**


**MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 November 2016

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Trump, President-Elect of the United States**

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.30 am): The great experiment in democracy continues and Australia wakes up today to a new president-elect, Donald Trump. Queensland, indeed our nation, has strong and enduring ties with the United States of America. We have stood shoulder to shoulder on battlefronts from Western Europe to the Pacific and all places in between. In Queensland, every May we commemorate the Battle of the Coral Sea, one of the seminal battles in the war in the Pacific, with services in Townsville, at Lyndon B Johnson Place in Newstead Park in Brisbane and at many places in between. We have long shared common bonds in defence and trade, and indeed some of Queensland's biggest investments are in the United States of America. The Queensland Investment Corporation, on behalf of its clients, many of whom are working for us in the Queensland government, invest billions of dollars, including One Times Square, the iconic scene of new year's celebrations where the ball drops on New Year's Eve down the spire.

Today I acknowledge Donald Trump's victory after a notably eventful election campaign. Last night he began the process of reconciliation, telegraphing his intent to govern for all Americans, to reach out to those who did not vote for him. The new president has acknowledged that he needs guidance and support from those who did not back him as much as from those who did, and I welcome that statement. While Mr Trump's campaign—in fact, his candidature—may have seen unconventional, he has clearly touched a chord with American voters that has resonated strongly, and perhaps there is something in that for us too.

I would also like to recognise the contribution of Hillary Clinton to public life of the United States of America. But, importantly, here in Queensland we must work to ensure that the ties of commerce and trade remain strong and that our great friendship with the people of the United States of America is not weakened or imperilled, especially by rash statements or intemperate remarks. The Queensland government has no vote in America and should respect the wishes of the American people and the office of the president, in the same way that we would expect Americans to respect our offices of governance. In this regard, it is important that we have someone leading our trade and investment mission who should build bridges rather than offend, who should accept the election outcome rather than prosecute old fights.

I was privileged to spend time in the US during the 2004 election campaign. What struck me starkly were our two nations' shared experiences and common values—a willingness to be frank and forthright, a belief in prospects and possibilities, a strong desire to do the best by our family and friends, our commitment to free enterprise and the desire to pass on to future generations more and even greater opportunities to create a fulfilling life. Long may those bonds endure.