




Speech By
Brittany Lauga

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

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MOTION

Military Training Areas

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.42 pm): The LNP is no friend of the farmer. I rise this evening to contribute to the debate regarding the federal government's proposed compulsory acquisition of land at Marlborough. This move by the federal LNP completely disregards the livelihoods and history of generations in that region. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, the member for Capricornia, Michelle Landry, and Senator Matthew Canavan have caused incredible stress, anxiety and heartache to the people in Marlborough and the entire Central Queensland region by declaring that they would take their homes and livelihoods without any consultation. I am proud to have moved quickly to take up the fight on behalf of these graziers and businesses. I stood at the community meeting in Marlborough and I promised that I would be there in the trenches with those people of Marlborough until the death, together with the member for Mirani and the state Minister for Agriculture. None of those people opposite were there at that meeting; none of those people opposite stood in the trenches with the people of Marlborough.

In January the Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, Treasurer Curtis Pitt, Minister for Agriculture Bill Byrne, member for Mirani Jim Pearce, local meatworkers, graziers, business people, unions and concerned locals joined us to lead a vocal and powerful rally of some 400 attendees at the Lakes Creek Hotel in Rockhampton calling on the LNP to stop this compulsory acquisition. None of those members opposite joined us. That rally and our display of people power proved strong and shows that this is what the Labor Party does best. We stand up for people in their hour of need, and I am proud to have stood side by side with the landholders, businesses and local people of Marlborough and Rockhampton there in the trenches fighting with them until victory.

What of the member for Capricornia and those opposite? As we now find out, the member for Capricornia was elected on a lie. The LNP spruiked \$1 billion of Singaporean investment prior to the 2 July federal election but neglected to tell anyone about the proposed compulsory acquisition. This advertisement from the *Morning Bulletin* is case in point. The advertisement states—

I have helped secure an agreement that will secure \$1 billion for a massive expansion of new defence infrastructure at the Shoalwater Bay training area.

There is nothing about the compulsory acquisition of 215,000 hectares of prime grazing land and nothing about the loss of 50,000 head of cattle from our local supply chain. I table a copy of the advertisement and a media release from 14 June 2016 in which the member for Capricornia is spruiking the \$1 billion deal and the expansion of Shoalwater Bay.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 14 June 2016, from the Minister for Defence, Hon. Marise Payne, and the federal member for Capricornia, Ms Michelle Landry MP, titled 'Defence Investment to Drive Jobs and Growth in Rocky and Coast' [\[184\]](#).

After weeks of dodging the question about when the member for Capricornia knew of the compulsory acquisitions, it now turns out that the LNP knew of the proposal well before the last federal election. We all know that if the LNP had been honest with those in Capricornia—and in particular those people of Marlborough—no doubt there would have been a very different result and Michelle Landry would not be the member for Capricornia today. Now the local people are calling on her to resign.

Not only was the compulsory acquisition of land immoral and a kick in the teeth to people who have worked there all their lives but the state department of agriculture says that at a minimum it would remove 50,000 head of prime beef cattle from the local beef supply chain, which would equate to at least three months work and scores of local jobs at our meatworks. Rockhampton is supposed to be the beef capital of Australia, yet the LNP and the member for Capricornia were prepared to sell us out at the expense of hundreds of local jobs with subsequent significant cost to service companies associated with local agriculture like Danni McKenzie and her husband at Marlborough Motors. How can a business stay open when its client base is decimated?

Let us also not forget about the stress and anguish caused by Mr Turnbull's blundering decision to steal land, homes and properties from the people who have lived and worked there for generations. One afternoon I spoke with one of the local graziers, and the wavering in this grazier's voice really got me right to the core. She was so concerned about a friend who had followed her husband around the paddock one afternoon because she was so afraid he would not come home due to the stress and anxiety this compulsory acquisition had caused. That is the kind of effect this compulsory acquisition by the LNP had, and I am so proud that we actually won—

(Time expired)