




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Leader of the Opposition, Performance

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.21 am): When you are quoting from the book of Ashby, you know you have fallen to the lowest possible place. We know there is no basement into which the Leader of the Opposition will not crawl to try to strengthen his leadership. This is absolute base politics. Good government is about strong leadership. Last night we saw the yawning chasm between the strong and effective leadership of the Premier of Queensland and the miserable and aimless dysfunction of the Leader of the Opposition. He was the only political leader who would not come into this House and state his position on more effective gun control in Queensland. The LNP is the only organisation that when playing follow-the-leader walks in a circle. The Leader of the Opposition should change the designation after his name from 'member of parliament' to 'MIA', because he is always missing in action on the big debates. Last night in a disallowance motion on gun laws he was on display as the invisible man of Queensland politics. He stood himself down when the Queensland of people needed him to step up and he has form.

One of the most predictable aspects of this parliament has been the absolute certainty that the Leader of the Opposition will go missing in the big debates. When his leadership goes missing, other voices fill the void. Last night, what did we hear from the member for Gympie? It is no wonder that he is now sitting up the back, next to the member for Buderim and leader of One Nation. The member for Gympie said that effective gun laws are designed to play 'to an audience of wealthy, unproductive inner-city zealots who think the whole world revolves around their concrete enclaves'. I say for the benefit of the member for Gympie that this is not about the inner city; it is about the safety of Queenslanders. That is what it is about.

The member for Gympie was joined by the LNP candidate for Rockhampton, who has said, 'Labor: always pandering to inner-city greens who wouldn't know a comb from a hammer.' That comes from the man who wants to represent Central Queensland. I table that quote and photos showing him yacking away with the Leader and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. That is the sort of person the Leader of the Opposition supports.

Tabled paper: Photos of the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Tim Nicholls MP, and Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Deb Frecklington MP, with Mr Douglas Rodgers and a screenshot from Mr Douglas's Facebook page and article from the *Rockhampton Morning Bulletin* online, dated 12 October 2017, titled 'LNP reveals young gun Rockhampton candidate' [\[2016\]](#).

Speaking of weakness, what about the LNP candidate for Ipswich West? He said that the postcard bandit, Brenden Abbott, was a political prisoner. What a disgrace. I tell the Leader of the Opposition that Brenden Abbott is a violent criminal who threatened innocent people with weapons, but that was said by the LNP candidate for Ipswich West and I table the printout from his Facebook page.

Tabled paper: Screenshots of Facebook pages of LNP candidate for Ipswich West [\[2017\]](#).

This is not leadership. If I cannot speak to him, I will speak to the rest of the LNP: this is not leadership; it is a path to failure for Queensland. Queenslanders deserve better. They deserve a strong and effective Labor government, led by a strong and effective premier.