




Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**

**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 February 2018

**ELECTION OF SPEAKER**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (11.16 am): To everyone in the gallery and everyone in Queensland who ever wanted to know why the LNP was on the opposition benches, they have seen it all on display this morning. I welcome the contribution by the Manager of Opposition Business because every time he stands up in this place and his face and his voice are on Queensland television we know more votes are coming towards the Palaszczuk Labor government.

I rise this morning to provide my very strong and unequivocal support to the motion moved by the honourable Premier and the member for Traeger that the member for Mulgrave take the chair as the Speaker of this parliament. Every member elected to this House understands that we operate in an adversarial system; that politics is, at its heart, a contest of ideas and competing visions for our state's future. The nature of the political contest foments debate which in this parliament is always willing, frequently robust and sometimes even enlightening even though we have not seen that this morning.

But this is the people's house, and the ideological and legislative battles we wage here are subject to rules. Those rules are interpreted and arbitrated by and through the Speaker. When we—as every member in this House has always done—give due deference to the authority of the Speaker's role, we are doing more than honouring the position. We are recognising its centrality to our parliamentary system; that the struggle has structure and that the fight has form.

It is a position that our system places rightly above the fray—a leadership role in the parliament that looks beyond the partisan to the order of process, supported not merely by convention or tradition but by the respect each and every one of us has for the nature of democratic governance. For the role of the Speaker is not political; it is institutional. The Premier and the member for Traeger—a member who I might remind all honourable members is not a member of the government and who sits on the crossbenches—have nominated the member for Mulgrave to fulfil this august role. He is a person who, like his father, who is in the gallery this morning with his mother and the member for Mulgrave's wife and children, has committed a significant proportion of his adult life to public service and has served in this parliament with distinction.

The member for Mulgrave is a man of integrity and capability—a member whose fitness for office was recently validated by his constituents at the ballot box who returned him to this House with an increased majority. They recognise, as does every fair-minded member of this House, that the member for Mulgrave is a person driven by the ideals of fairness and social justice who has, including in the last parliament as Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, generated an impressive record of achievement for the people of our state.

He could point to his record as treasurer, when he delivered three consecutive surplus budgets, reduced debt, helped reduce unemployment and helped turn the lights back on, as did everyone in the first Palaszczuk Labor government after the dark, grim years of the Newman LNP government. He could point to those things as his most significant achievement. However, for many of us, his work supporting

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities stands as some of the most telling about his character. On this special day, the 10th anniversary of the national apology to the stolen generation delivered by the then prime minister Kevin Rudd, leader of a federal Labor government, we know that in the member for Mulgrave the Indigenous people of our state have an unwavering champion for their cause.

What have we heard from the members opposite? Just when we had begun to hope the reset button had been pressed—it had been pressed and pressed by the Leader of the Opposition—we see nothing. We thought there might be something behind their rhetoric about a fresh approach, yet all we have had is the same old negative whining, the same old negativity. Just when we hope they might seize the chance to be noble, they flip the switch to nasty, led by the Leader of the Opposition, and remind us yet again of their inexhaustible capacity to disappoint. It may be a new LNP cast, but it is the same LNP movie: tired, worn out, meandering, finishing in failure.

There is one candidate that all fair-minded members of this House should support for the position of Speaker of the 56th Parliament, and that is the member for Mulgrave.