



Speech By  
**Dr Christian Rowan**


**MEMBER FOR MOGGILL**

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**VACANCY IN SENATE OF COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA**

**Election of Senator**

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (4.35 pm): I rise to address the Senate vacancy motion before us today. I am sure that all representatives in this House, regardless of political party background or persuasion, can agree that it is an incredible privilege and honour to be democratically elected by your constituents to serve as their elected representative in this parliament. That being said, for a number of our federal representatives and senators this great honour was recently revoked due to circumstances surrounding individual breaches of section 44 of the Constitution, otherwise known as Australia's dual citizenship saga. It was a breach of this provision which saw Ms Larissa Waters resign her position last year as a Greens senator for Queensland. We now find ourselves in this parliament, as required by the Australian Constitution, to fill the vacancy following the resignation of Senator Andrew Bartlett and, as a consequence, consider the nomination of Senator-elect Waters for the position of senator for Queensland once again.

I have no doubt that for Senator-elect Waters it is indeed a great honour for her to be nominated again to represent her constituency and further the cause of her political party as a senator for Queensland, but just what exactly is that cause? What is it that the reappointed Greens senator will champion on behalf of her party? Unfortunately when it comes to the Greens, they champion causes that do nothing to further the state of Queensland and in fact do everything possible to destroy our economy and way of life.

There is no question that the Greens have clearly lost their way. Formed over a quarter of a century ago, the Greens held as their ideas balanced social justice, respectful democracy, peace and nonviolence and of course environmental sustainability. These days it is obvious that the Greens stand for little more than socialism and cultural Marxism, higher electricity prices, higher cost of living, fewer jobs, less infrastructure and of course ultimately a warped ideology that champions radical gender theory and policies lacking credible evidence like the Safe Schools program.

For more than 25 years the Greens have championed environmental sustainability, which in fact is a cause the LNP also champions, but the Greens have systematically marched further and further to the left, promoting policy that defies any logic or economic sense. Perhaps there is no greater example of this socialist madness than the leader of the Greens party, Senator Richard Di Natale, earlier this year announcing as Greens' policy a plan to introduce a universal basic income. In essence, this is a non-means tested payment to all Australian citizens with no credible way to pay for it. In announcing this policy, Senator Di Natale declared it to be a bold move towards equality. That is one way to describe it.

Personally I would have described it as being a strategy moving towards extreme socialism, because that is what this is and that is what the Greens have always stood for. Forget the environment, forget democracy, forget even peace and nonviolent protests, because there have been plenty of members of the Greens party involved in all sorts of extreme and inappropriate protests, not only in recent times but over the years.

The Greens also now stand for higher taxes and reckless spending. An analysis of the Greens' policy for a universal basic income has indicated that federal spending would have to rise by \$254 billion a year, bringing the top tax rate to 78 per cent. Not even France would dare to go that far. Of course, that is just another day in the Greens party. They announce policies with no effort. They are not made to consider the cost or the consequences. They can make motherhood statements such as, 'Farmers should be celebrated, supported and rewarded for the role they play in producing our food and managing our natural resources,' or even, 'Locally owned small and medium businesses are significant and crucial elements in the strength and resilience of local economies,' but then support legislation that hurts our farmers, or locks up prime agricultural land and destroys family businesses and Queensland's regional economy.

The Greens are also supporting the Palaszczuk Labor government's plan for urban overdevelopment across the western suburbs of Brisbane via their implicit support of Labor's current South East Queensland Regional Plan. There is a reason the Greens are sometimes referred to as watermelons—green on the outside and red on the inside. That red, while representative of the Greens' socialist ideals, is just as representative of their ties to the Labor Party and union movement. Whether it is shady preference deals, happily taking union donations, or even working hand in hand with GetUp!, the Labor Party and the Greens are really one and the same.

When Senator-elect Waters returns to the Senate, I sincerely hope it is Queensland and not the Greens or the Labor Party that she puts first. Earlier this year, in the months before her expected return to the Senate, Senator-elect Waters was committed to getting around the state listening to the needs of communities. I sincerely hope Senator-elect Waters heard loud and clear that Queenslanders, including my constituents in the electorate of Moggill, want lower electricity prices, more jobs and better infrastructure. Given the Greens' economy-destroying policies, that is a message that she can take back to her Greens colleagues in Canberra.

However, on a personal note, I wish Senator-elect Waters all the best. Although I do not agree with Senator-elect Waters' party policies, I appreciate the personal sacrifices both Senator-elect Waters and her family have made and will continue to make in her returning to her elected position. As such, I wish her all the best.