




Speech By
Dale Last

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

Record of Proceedings, 13 February 2018

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (11.28 am): The position of Speaker of this House is a position about respect, trust and fairness and, as our representative here in parliament, someone who acts in the interests of all of Queensland. Can I say the member for Mulgrave is no friend of the north. It is a disgrace that the Katter party stood here today and supported his nomination. Let me remind parliament that under the watch of the member for Mulgrave funding for the dredging of the Trinity Inlet at Cairns was cut. That project was crucial to the far northern region and to the Cairns economy. He could not deliver the Aquis project even though it was his new year's resolution.

He failed to deliver the promised parliamentary inquiry in North Queensland and he cut road funding across North Queensland, for which the Katter party voted in favour of condemning him. How important is road funding in North Queensland? The North Queensland based members know what I am talking about. The road network in the north is the vital artery that keeps our communities alive and keeps them going, yet here we have a member who cut road funding for the north. He infamously said that money spent on the Bruce Highway is a waste of money.

He is no friend of the north. He would not support a base load power station in North Queensland to reduce our power prices. If you want to talk about a contentious issue in North Queensland, go and talk to the residents up there about how much they are paying for their power. This is a member who supported repeated increases in power prices that are crippling our economy and devastating communities in North Queensland. He would not accede to the power discounts offered by Alinta because of a sweetheart deal with government owned generators. To people in north and regional Queensland he is no friend.

Who could forget his opposition to sugar marketing legislation for our hardworking canefarmers in North Queensland? The member for Mulgrave has sugar cane in his own electorate, yet he sided with those opposite to oppose sugar marketing legislation which would give our growers a choice in who markets their sugar. He sided with those opposite in trying to introduce into this parliament draconian vegetation management laws which demonised our farmers and had the potential to bring agricultural development in this state to a standstill. He lives in an area in North Queensland where unemployment has gone through the roof, crime is out of control and there has been no action on infrastructure such as dams. We on this side of the House repeatedly talk about what this infrastructure will do and the jobs it will bring, but what do we see from those opposite, supported by the former treasurer? Absolutely nothing. The best predictor of future performance is past performance, and on all accounts the member for Mulgrave has failed to deliver.

I support the nomination of the member for Caloundra, who is a man of integrity. He has the experience, impartiality and trust to be the Speaker of this House and preside over the 56th Parliament in a way which will bring integrity to the role and to this parliament. I fully support the nomination of the member for Caloundra.