




Speech By
David Janetzki

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

Record of Proceedings, 19 September 2018

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (4.40 pm): I rise to respond to the Governor's opening speech from earlier this year. Firstly, let me start by thanking from the bottom of my heart the people of Toowoomba South who have given me the very great privilege of being their member here in this chamber for another term.

Like the minister who has just spoken who was reflecting about his electorate of Woodridge, I am also privileged, particularly as I had a redistribution ahead of this election. I actually took some territory from you, Mr Deputy Speaker. It also gave me the heartbeat of the Toowoomba multicultural community. People underestimate the diversity of Toowoomba. It is far from a retiring country town. One of the new areas that I gained in the redistribution is the area of Darling Heights. Out of 600 kids at Darling Heights State School 300 speak another language at home. The University of Southern Queensland, which is also now included in my electorate, is the heartbeat for our multicultural community in Toowoomba.

We have vast numbers of refugees coming to Toowoomba. I recently had the most moving experience at the Yazidi memorial. We have 400 Yazidis, an ethnic minority in Iraq that suffered horrific genocide. It was my great privilege to be there and be present with them in their grief. I acknowledge the Yazidi community across Toowoomba but also all refugees, in particular Syrian refugees—we are a refugee welcome zone in Toowoomba—both Muslim and Coptic Christian refugees. It is my great privilege to represent our multicultural diversity in my electorate, in our city, here in this chamber.

I also want to acknowledge the election campaign. It can be quite a fraught experience. However, I want to acknowledge the civility with which my other candidates approached the campaign. I acknowledge my fellow candidates, Labor Susan Krause, Green candidate Alyce Nelligan, One Nation candidate Jeremy Scamp and Independent Rob Berry, for the way in which the election was conducted. How could it be any other way when my second cousin and very good friend was the chair of the Labor candidate's committee? We could not help but get along very well. I acknowledge the civility with which the election process was conducted.

One of the most challenging aspects of the election campaign came about because five days before the Premier called the election my wife and I welcomed our third child—

Mr Dick: Anastacia!

Mr JANETZKI: I will not take that interjection. I must confess that I was watching very closely the honourable member for Keppel to try to divine when the Premier might actually call the election. I will explain where I am leading. Five days after our Samuel's birth, the Premier called the election and I bade farewell to my wife and family for pretty much the next five weeks. Again, as is so often reflected here in this House—and I know it has been said repeatedly that we are volunteers and our families and loved ones are conscripts. That is certainly no different in my family's case.

I want to acknowledge my darling wife and my precious daughters and the sacrifices that they make. In order for us to do this job as well as we ought, whether we are in the ministry, the shadow ministry, backbench, frontbench—whatever roles we play—doing this job well requires a 24/7 commitment. Even if we are not on the job, often our minds will be elsewhere. Whether it be the demands of social media, the demands of constituent requests or demands for help, our minds will always be elsewhere.

My wife and I both turned 40 this year. In our twenties when she was an opera singer we were travelling around Europe, we loved nothing more than to pack up our bags in about 20 minutes and move on to wherever her work would take us. During those years we had a motto that we would live by. It was three words: joy, freedom, simplicity. I reflect now at 40 how far away freedom and simplicity are from our lives.

Mr Mander: You're still clutching onto the joy.

Mr JANETZKI: I am hanging onto joy; the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is dead right. It is solely my wife's doing. It is due to her support and her character that we do have joy, and I thank her for that. I thank my family, my kids and her for the opportunity to pursue this calling of mine to give politics a go. I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

Next cab in line for thanks is my office. As we know we are so often away: we will be here or travelling around Queensland. I thank my office staff from the bottom of my heart, too. I brought Janice Nicholson with me after I was elected. I poached her from Heritage Bank; she had reported to me there. Her role there was to look after all the customer complaints, so I thought she would be perfect in an electorate office. I thank Janice for everything she does for me and my family. I also thank Kevena Franklin.

Ms Leahy: Icon.

Mr JANETZKI: She is an icon of the National Party and amongst electorate officers. I want to pay special tribute to Kevena. She was a personal assistant to Mike Horan when he was the Toowoomba Showgrounds CEO about 30 years ago. She joined Mike when he replaced Clive Berghofer as the member for Toowoomba South in 1991. Kevena came over. Since that time she has served faithfully in the Toowoomba South electorate office. I do not know how many times in the last two years since I was elected I have asked Kevena, 'What would Mike have done? What would John McVeigh have done?' I thank Kevena for her contribution to the National Party and to electorate officers right throughout our side of politics.

Finally, I want to thank Lacey Maguire. I have three extraordinary women working for me. Lacey, PR guru extraordinaire, always makes me sound far more intelligent than I truly am.

Mr Powell: It's not hard!

Mr JANETZKI: I will take that interjection from the member for Glass House. I want to thank Lacey for always being on call and always being willing to assist.

As so many of us reflect, it also takes a special campaign team to have us all here. I am under no illusion; I am not here under my own steam. I carry with me the fine reputation and values of the Liberal National Party. I never take that for granted. I am but a torchbearer. I look at the characters who have been here before me as the member for Toowoomba South and I am reminded of that regularly, whether it be Clive Berghofer, Mike Horan or John McVeigh. I realise that and I want to thank my campaign team who help regardless of who the candidate is. They help beyond what they ought.

I want to thank my campaign chairman Sam Wright, a fine young accountant, a fine director of the Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce with a very bright future ahead of him. My treasurer, I also thank Amelia Dobson, another young woman with a very bright future ahead of her. When I have needed assistance she has always provided it.

I look across my campaign team—and I have mentioned him in my maiden speech. We all know pre-polling is a pretty tough task. I have one gentleman in my electorate who pre-polls for me like no other. He will be there morning to night, eight to six, and he is Boyd Scheuber. I thank Boyd for his contribution over so many years. I look forward to him helping me again in 2020. I will hold him to that.

Ms Leahy: You've got him locked up.

Mr JANETZKI: Yes, I have him locked up now.

I also have to thank a vast range of friends and colleagues who show up on the day, people who help me with fundraising like Greg and Jan Johnson. My mates Deano, Dwight, Michael, Luke and Matt are people who do not just hand out for me on the day but people who inspire me to do better, who

challenge me to think outside the box. In politics we can be in a bubble, but they always encourage me to think of different ways of approaching issues—not to be caught up in the bubble, but to always be thinking firstly of others and how best we in this place can help them improve their lives or offer up new industries or new ways of doing things.

In July 2016 I won a by-election to become a member of this House, and I think it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the former Leader of the Opposition, the member for Clayfield, who played such a vital role in the winning of that by-election. He intervened, he gave me a great deal of advice and he gave it his all as the Leader of the Opposition. I pay tribute to the member for Clayfield and I thank him for his assistance in guiding me through my first by-election campaign, which was not an easy one. I acknowledge his assistance.

When you come into the parliament after a by-election you are somewhat on your own. There are three gentlemen in particular who I want to acknowledge today for taking me under their wing and giving me some advice along the way. I can hear some chuckling already. Two of them, sadly, are no longer in this place. Firstly, I acknowledge the former member for Southern Downs, Lawrence Springborg, who I do not believe was given the opportunity of a valedictory. I am glad, now that there are fixed terms, that that opportunity will not be missed again. Others have said this and I will say it: I think Lawrence was the finest premier we never had. He has been ably replaced by the new member for Southern Downs, but Lawrence was a giant and remains so. I will always be thankful for his counsel early on in my political career, and I pay tribute to Lawrence.

The second man who is no longer here in the House is my good mate—in fact, he is a good mate to so many of us on this side of the House—the former member for Hinchinbrook. I can still hear the echo of his cackle in this chamber. It is a sad loss. I do not think there could be any finer parliamentarian than the former member for Hinchinbrook. He is a fierce intellect and a formidable opponent. I am sure that even those on the government's side of the House would acknowledge his vast contribution. I know that so many of us here miss him and his personality, and I miss his frank and fearless advice.

The third person still sits here and gave quite a thought-provoking speech in reply, and that is the member for Glass House. I thank him for his wisdom, advice and perspective in my first couple of years in parliament. I thank him for that from the bottom of my heart as well.

Mr Mander: What about me?

Mr JANETZKI: I am coming to you. I have nearly mentioned everyone. I do want to now move to the present. I want to thank the new Leader of the Opposition, the member for Nanango, and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I believe that they will one day make fine leaders of this state, and I thank them for the opportunity to serve as shadow Attorney-General and shadow minister for justice. I was not anticipating that opportunity, but I am very thankful for it. I am committed to doing everything I can to ensure that, by the end of 2020, we have a Frecklington-Mander government. That would be wonderful for Queensland.

I also want to acknowledge the new MPs and their contributions. I think on this side of the House we are very, very fortunate to have a range of new MPs. We only need to see the force of their delivery, the cogency of their arguments and the articulate way in which they approach their contributions in this House. I think that our party is in very good hands.

I want to turn to Toowoomba briefly. I want to acknowledge that Toowoomba is a place on the move. Toowoomba is an economic hub for southern and western Queensland—

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: I will take the interjection from the member for Miller. It is handy that the Labor government is going to Toowoomba next week, because they will see what entrepreneurial, innovative and hardworking people can achieve without any assistance from government.

Mr Mander: In spite of the government!

Mr JANETZKI: I will take the interjection. I would say it is in fact in spite of the government that the Darling Downs region continues to soar. When you have families like the Wagners, who are willing to put in \$200 million of their own money to build a jet-capable airport—

Ms Leahy: International!

Mr JANETZKI:—international airport to take our produce, our expertise and our innovation to the world, we are in a very fortunate position. It is not just the Wagners—

Mr Mander: They got three and a half million contributed towards it.

Mr JANETZKI: Exactly. It is people like the Gardners, and I look at what the FKG Group is doing. We have 98 per cent of Australia's agricultural industries within a 300-kilometres radius of Toowoomba. We have the opportunity—and we are already well on the way—to becoming a world-leading

agricultural area not just of raw material, as you know all too well, Mr Deputy Speaker, but of value-added technology. When I think of what the second range crossing and the inland rail can achieve for our region to take our goods, services and know-how to the world, there is only one way but up for Toowoomba and the Darling Downs region. It is such a pleasure to represent such a fine part of Queensland.

I look to the amazing community and organisational groups that make up our great part of the world such as the Chamber of Commerce, led by Joy Mingay and Jo Sheppard, or TSBE, led by Ali Davenport. Last week I saw 2nd Shot, which is a great social enterprise in Toowoomba run by Nat and Tiff Spary, who are putting long-term homeless people into jobs, helping them train and making sure that everyone in our community has the best opportunity to get ahead, get a job and be part of our community, because we are a welcoming community. We are a warm community.

I will just return briefly to talk about the Labor government taking up residence in Toowoomba next week. It is good timing because we do have the Carnival of Flowers next week. The carnival parade is on Saturday. I hope that Labor ministers get there; it would be great to have their support.

Ms Leahy: Smell the flowers!

Mr JANETZKI: Yes, come and smell the flowers in Toowoomba. While they are there I have a couple of issues I would like to raise, because I am disgusted and appalled at all too often being rejected dismissively by the Labor government when it comes time to asking for things in my electorate. I reflect on a ridiculous and overly political response from the member for Miller to a simple request from people in my electorate for a set of traffic lights at Donahue Street. We have a retirement village on the corner of Ruthven and Donahue streets. My request was dismissed without any due consideration.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: Correct. We have elderly people who are concerned about this, and in the letter the member for Miller spent more time talking about the Newman government than the safety risks my people face. It is just ridiculous. Perhaps when the member for Miller is there I can arrange some time.

Mr Boothman interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: I will take that interjection from the member for Theodore. I am not alone in receiving those overly political letters, which serve no purpose other than to reinforce the fact that they are not ready to govern. They are not willing to govern. They are too interested in playing politics.

There is a second major issue I want to address. It is a pity that Mr Deputy Speaker has left the chair, because it impacts both of our electorates. We have a congestion problem with schools in Toowoomba South and the south-west suburbs of Toowoomba. The South West Toowoomba High School is absolutely necessary, and we need the education minister to take it seriously. We need to have some land purchased and conversations need to be held. Harristown State High School is in my electorate. I understand that the minister is going to a sod turning at nine o'clock on Monday morning. I am still waiting for my invitation, because it is a high school in my electorate. A sod turning is being done for a resource that is years late. We need the education minister to take seriously the education needs of Toowoomba.

Finally, I again give my commitment to the people of Toowoomba South that I will continue fighting for them. I am so thankful for and honoured to have the privilege of being their representative in this House.