




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 6 September 2018

VACANCY IN SENATE OF COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Election of Senator

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (4.05 pm): Being a senator representing Queensland is a serious obligation. The Senate provides the checks and balances for the federal government of the day. According to the conventions of our federal system of government, the person to fill the Senate vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr Bartlett should come from the same party. I support that convention. What I do not support is the alliance between the Labor Party in Queensland and the Greens.

Over the last few years Labor has cooked up this allegiance with the Greens because it is a government that values power over principle. In fact—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members. The House will come to order.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: In fact, in the last term Labor changed the voting system here in Queensland with 18 minutes notice, without any consultation with Queenslanders, to secure—

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The issues that the Leader of the Opposition is going to have absolutely nothing to do with the Senate vacancy and she should be brought back to the motion.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The important debate that is ensuing is with respect to the character of an individual who may sit in the federal Senate. The Leader of the Opposition is speaking of the character of the individual—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members. Can I hear the point of order?

Mr BLEIJIE: Also it is convention, Mr Speaker; you have only to look back at a previous Senate election debate in this House not so long ago to see that the members of the Labor Party very much politicised their speeches.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Order, members! When I call the House to order I expect the House to come to order. Having heard the two points of order from the Leader of the House and the Manager of Opposition Business, I believe that relevant points have been made by both members. I will be listening to the Leader of the Opposition's contribution to ensure that it is sticking with the spirit of the meeting that the House is undertaking today and to ensure its relevance to the motion that is being debated. I have seen already that the Leader of the Opposition is appearing to not be taking interjections. I would appreciate being able to hear the contribution.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: That change of the voting system without any consultation was done by a state Labor government to simply secure the preferences from parties like the Greens. The equation is simple: Labor is leaking votes to the Greens, so the Premier and her ministers must plug those holes with more and more support of the Greens' policies. We know that Labor is cannibalising its working-class roots. We see Labor keeping the Greens satisfied every single time we sit in this House.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members to my right!

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I ask you to withdraw that comment, please, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition is not taking interjections; however, I will be managing the business of the House and the order of this House. I will not require comments or any guidance from any member.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: We see the Labor Party keeping the Greens satisfied every time we sit in this Queensland chamber. The Labor government continues to sell Queensland jobs for political gain by: shutting down sandmining on North Stradbroke Island; reintroducing the ban on uranium mining; legislating devastating anti-farmer laws; interfering in mining approvals; reneging on the ASF Gold Coast Spit integrated resort development; and its continual focus on increased taxes, which destroy jobs and smash business confidence. The Premier crumbles on every issue that may lose her votes to the Greens. At the beck and call of Labor's true decision-maker, the Premier is forced to take radical positions just for the sake of saving the Deputy Premier.

I would encourage the new senator to review the Greens' policies, which destroy jobs and push up power prices. These positions simply hurt Queensland families and small businesses. In the Senate it is important to put Queensland families and small businesses first. The Greens' policies certainly have some interesting howlers. During the 2016 federal election media reports said that one of the Greens' policy ideas included hiring snipers to shoot dogs that get too close to penguin colonies. It did not stop there! The Greens wanted to double the number of firefighters to combat global warming and destroy the retirement of millions of Australians by massive super tax increases. For the Batman by-election earlier this year the Greens announced a plan to ban the sale of all new petrol and diesel cars in Australia by 2030.

We have seen the Greens' lacklustre contribution to this parliament by frequently missing votes and debates and voting with the Labor government to keep the Adani royalty deal secret. Labor and the Greens have a long history of making pre-election preference deals in Queensland that have resulted in Labor governments imposing legislation that simply cripples our economy. The Labor Party would do well to divorce themselves from the Greens party.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gregory, you are warned under standing orders. I called the House to order and you continued to interject.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection from the member for Gregory, who simply pointed out that One Nation preferenced the Labor Party at the last state election.

The LNP will always put Queenslanders first because we are a party made up of grassroots members and a party free from influence. Those opposite put their own self-interest first, followed by the unions and the Greens. A government should provide a stable policy setting to encourage investment, economic growth and prosperity. We are not getting stable government because Labor is constantly changing the goalposts to save its own skin in inner-city Brisbane. Regional Queenslanders have a right to feel betrayed. I want to make sure all Queenslanders see the Labor-Greens alliance for the self-interested stitch-up that it really is. I would urge the new senator to put Queensland first.