




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 14 November 2018

MOTION

Shark Control Program, Inquiry

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.07 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the member for Gympie. Unlike the contribution we just heard from the Minister for Tourism, we do not need letters and we do not need talkfests; we need drum lines. We need to protect the good people of Queensland and Australia and our international visitors.

An opposition member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection. We need to put people before sharks.

Mr Costigan: Every day of the week.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Every day of the week. I take that interjection from the member for Whitsunday. He gets it. We need to put people before sharks.

Mrs Lauga interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I hear the interjections from the member for Keppel. I dare say she is from an area where we actually have a Shark Control Program. We have a Shark Control Program all the way up—

Mrs Lauga interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Keppel, I have issued a direction to members in the chamber. If you wish to rise and make a contribution, please do so.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am more than happy to hear from the member for Keppel because it appears that she is supporting the minister in saying we do not need a Shark Control Program, we do not need drum lines, we do not need to protect tourists, we do not need to protect people. I put it to the member for Keppel that the good people around Yeppoon who want to be safe in our waters actually want to be put before sharks. I am just going to say that to you, member for Keppel. You can take that back home and ponder on that.

Mr SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair, Leader of the Opposition.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: If you go out into your local community and say, 'I'm going to put sharks before you,' I do not think it is going to go so well—sorry, Mr Speaker—if the member for Keppel is minded to do that.

Mrs Lauga: Have you been to Cid Harbour? Have you been there?

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Keppel, I have already asked you to cease your interjections.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I would love to take that interjection, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members, there seems to be some confusion about what kind of debate we have in this parliament. This debate is to be conducted in five-minute speeches, not across the chamber at five-second intervals. I ask that you hear the member on their feet and then make a contribution if you wish.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Not only have I been to Cid Harbour; I have actually honeymooned there. I am more than happy to go on a honeymoon there again with my husband. Maybe we could have our second honeymoon there. I have to say this: we might even go to Daydream Island, unlike the member for Mackay, who was announcing something to do with Lindeman Island I think it was today and the Minister for Tourism was standing beside her saying, 'Yep, yep—Lindeman. No, no—Daydream.'

Mr Speaker, I will get back to the motion before the House. I stand here in all seriousness for three people whom we should be recognising—that is, Justine Barwick, a 46-year-old woman who suffered severe injuries to her right thigh and had to undergo reconstructive surgery; Hannah Papps, a 12-year-old girl who lost her leg; and, tragically, Daniel Christidis, a 33-year-old doctor who lost his life.

The Palaszczuk government are so arrogant and so out of touch that the Premier is backing shark welfare over community safety. The LNP says enough is enough. We will put people before sharks. On behalf of those people and their families, we deserve action. Five days after that fatal shark attack all we have seen from this government is a talkfest. Mr Speaker, if that were your son, your brother, your sister or your friend who had died, I do not think that you would think that is an adequate response from this government. What happened after one of the other attacks? This government put drum lines in. Not only did they do that; they said it was based on scientific evidence. Then a week later they took them out again because they were obviously not worried about the people.

Those opposite—and we have just heard from the minister—think that the answer to this is paying a \$250,000 bill to figure out if Cid Harbour in the Whitsundays has a shark problem. I can tell you, Mr Speaker, and government members that it does have a shark problem. There have been three attacks in six weeks. We need to put the drum lines back in. We do not need letters or whatever the minister was talking about. We need to protect the people who want to go to the jewel in the tourism crown in Queensland, and that is Cid Harbour in the Whitsundays. The LNP will always put people before sharks. That is why we need a parliamentary inquiry into the Shark Control Program in Queensland.

(Time expired)