



Speech By  
**Ann Leahy**


**MEMBER FOR WARREGO**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Local Government, Voting**

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.19 pm): The tweetie bird is back. In fact, the tweetie bird has been chirping overtime about local government. The tweetie bird advised that the Minister for Local Government was rolled by his own caucus on the compulsory preferential voting proposal for local government. The tweetie bird was not surprised that the minister was rolled by his party. Why? It is because the tweetie bird knows how to count votes in local government. The little tweetie bird could work out that Labor would lose more seats to the Greens in Brisbane City Council and is absolutely dumbfounded that the minister could not understand this. The tweetie bird knows that the Palaszczuk Labor government have their priorities all wrong for local government. Inevitably we saw this week the Palaszczuk Labor government fall on their sword and scrap the compulsory preferential voting proposals for councils.

The tweetie bird is still listening and waiting, just like local government. Local government would like to hear a commitment from Labor that they will not introduce any legislation during the rest of this parliamentary term for compulsory preferential voting at the 2024 local government elections. Local governments are looking for that longer term certainty. They need to plan for the future, so they need to hear that commitment from this government.

This constant flip-flopping is an embarrassment for this Labor government, whose argument at the beginning was all about the consistency of voting systems. The only consistency this weak Labor government has given local government is inconsistency. This is yet another failing from this minister, of which there are many. We know that it was this minister who presided over rail fail. We know that it was this minister who took three attempts to sack the Labor Ipswich City Council. Also deserving of mention is how the mayors and councillors were sacked by press release before the minister's legislation was in place. The tweetie bird knows that this minister presided over the Eagle Farm racetrack fail.

Now it is this minister who has done the year's biggest flip-flop, with the great council vote-rigging renege, after being rolled by his own Labor caucus. Sadly, there has been debacle after debacle—a poor track record, a complete embarrassment to the Palaszczuk Labor government. Beware of the tweetie bird. The tweetie bird is definitely the black-throated finch for the Palaszczuk Labor government.