




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

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ADJOURNMENT

Shoalwater Bay

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (7.19 pm): It is just over two years since then prime minister Malcolm Turnbull, after intense political pressure and a grassroots campaign led by Marlborough residents, finally backed down on compulsory acquisitions for Shoalwater Bay. It is all happening again. The federal LNP government have written to the state government asking us to restrict the community's access to our protected areas to enable the Shoalwater Bay expansion to go ahead. We might have a different prime minister, but it is the same disrespect for local communities that we have come to expect from this out of touch LNP government. We are stuck in groundhog day.

Two years ago Michelle Landry stood in front of the people of Marlborough and promised that there would be no compulsory acquisition. Now we find out that not only are they pushing ahead despite that promise, but they are also trying to acquire public land and shut down national parks. The federal government has sought to close Bald Hills Road and Charon Point Conservation Park as part of its land grab for its Shoalwater Bay Training Area within the Australia-Singapore Military Training Initiative.

Michelle Landry and the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison government need to immediately rule out any attempt to compulsorily acquire this land. The people of Marlborough made it very clear two years ago when the federal LNP government tried to force them off their land. They do not want to see any compulsory acquisition.

Michelle Landry has serious questions to answer. Ms Landry needs to explain why Marlborough and Central Queensland residents have once again been kept in the dark about what the federal government is planning for our community. Charon Point Conservation Park and the Broadsound is essential to the biodiversity of our region and its natural beauty is enjoyed by locals and visitors alike. I want to see people continue to be able to camp and fish on the Broadsound and enjoy the diverse ecosystems, including open eucalypt forest and grassy open woodlands, along with large areas of mangrove flats and bare salt pans at Charon Point. The federal government's proposal would see an end to these recreational activities and put the environmental values at risk.

Obviously, Michelle Landry and the LNP have not learnt their lesson from last time and are once again trying to push this expansion forward against the wishes of local residents. The federal government has the power to compulsorily acquire the land but Michelle Landry and the LNP need to rule this option out.

Where is the Leader of the Opposition on this issue? Where is the shadow minister, the member for Broadwater, on this issue? It is time for those opposite to stand up for Queenslanders and join with the Palaszczuk government in opposing the Morrison government's sneaky tactics. I am also calling on the Leader of the Opposition to pick up the phone to her buddies in Canberra and demand that they rule out compulsory acquisition.

The Palaszczuk government will continue to support the Central Queensland community and reject any federal LNP proposal that leads to the permanent closure of Charon Point Conservation Park. The question I put to those opposite is: whose side are they on?