




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

Record of Proceedings, 14 May 2019

MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Capricornia Electorate, ALP Candidate

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.42 pm): The member for Maiwar talks about turning the ship around at this election. I can tell you that it is not the Greens that will turn the ship around at this election! I rise today to speak about how important this election is for Queensland and Australia. Scott Morrison and the LNP have cut schools, hospitals, TAFE and pensions, all to pay for their \$80 billion handout for banks and multinationals.

There is a lot at stake this Saturday, especially in Capricornia. When it comes to what matters to middle-class and working Australians, Scott Morrison and the LNP are only for the top end of town. As treasurer, Scott Morrison spent three years trying to give the banks a \$17 billion tax cut. Scott Morrison and Michelle Landry, the member for Capricornia, have cut \$14 billion from schools. This means that Queensland schools will be over \$2 billion worse off under the LNP. Cutting funding from public schools means more pressure on class sizes and less individual attention for students.

You cannot have a plan for economic growth without a plan to invest in schools and education. Scott Morrison, Michelle Landry and the LNP have cut \$3 billion from TAFE, skills and apprenticeships. Under the LNP Australia has lost almost 150,000 apprenticeships and traineeships nationwide. If you are serious about jobs, you do not cut funding from TAFE. Scott Morrison and the LNP tried to give an \$80 billion taxpayer funded handout to multinationals and big business. He cut \$360 million from Queensland hospitals, including \$11 million from Central Queensland hospitals.

Scott Morrison, Michelle Landry and the LNP supported cuts to penalty rates. In fact, Michelle Landry sat in parliament and voted eight times to cut penalty rates. In Capricornia that equates to 10,670 retail and hospitality workers who have had their Sunday penalty rates cut. Their take-home pay has been cut by up to \$3,200 this year. We need a wage rise for working Australians, not tax handouts for big banks and multinationals. Michelle Landry and the LNP voted to raise the pension age to 70 and to cut the pension.

There is a lot at stake at this election for the people of Capricornia. That is why on election day this Saturday I am backing Russell Robertson, Labor's candidate for Capricornia. Russell Robertson, or 'Robbo' as he is affectionately known, is a third-generation miner and father of three. Russell was born in Clermont and grew up in Moranbah, where he attended the same local school that his children went to. He has dedicated time as chairman of the Moranbah community scholarship board, which supports and funds local kids to attend university. For the past 17 years Russell has worked at the nearby Goonyella mine, where he operates heavy mining vehicles.

I have known Russell for a little while now and I know that he will not sit back and watch the LNP destroy the secure jobs our workers and their families need in Central Queensland. He has the guts and the fight in him to stand up for our region.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Keppel, that is unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

Mrs LAUGA: He has the fight and the determination—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I still need you to withdraw, though.

Mrs LAUGA: I withdraw. Creating good, secure, local jobs in Central Queensland is Russell Robertson's top priority. While Michelle Landry supports Scott Morrison and the LNP's cuts to our region, Russell will fight for the funding our region needs for our schools and hospitals. Russell Robertson is on our side. He understands that every worker should get the same pay for the same job, and he will fight for more funding for our schools and hospitals.

Michelle Landry and the LNP have cut \$11 million from our Central Queensland hospitals, destroyed permanent jobs and cut penalty rates from our workers and families. Michelle Landry wants to back the big end of town instead of putting an end to dodgy labour hire practices. Russell will fight for more funding for our schools and hospitals and will stand up for workers and their families so they can have a good, secure job.

There is much at stake at this election for the people of Capricornia. This weekend I am encouraging everyone to vote Labor so as to restore penalty rates, fix our schools and hospitals, ease pressure on family budgets by ending the Medicare freeze and give tax breaks to workers and not the top end of town. We need a local member who will stand up for workers, not someone who is too busy getting selfies with mine bosses. We need a local member who will reverse cuts to penalty rates and crack down on abuse of labour hire and 457 visas. We need Russell Robertson standing up for us in Capricornia—working to build a strong economy that works for us all. He will make the top end of town pay their fair share so that we can build new infrastructure and give workers a fair go. We need to end the cuts and chaos that the Canberra LNP government has dished up to us, and Russell Robertson is the only person on the ballot paper in Capricornia who will do so.