




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

One Nation, Preferences

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (2.51 pm): The recent tragic events in Christchurch remind us that we live in a dangerous world and that of all the weapons in the human arsenal there is none more threatening than the malignant idea. The appalling event that took place almost two weeks ago was not a random act of violence, it was not the spontaneous eruption of a disturbed mind and it was not a response to some provocation. It was the calculated expression of a toxic ideology which bleats its mantra through the megaphone of the civil liberties it so trenchantly seeks to deny others—the same toxic ideology that robes vilification in the cloak of free speech.

Hate speech is not free speech. It is not an expression of free speech. It is its nemesis. Freedom of speech cannot be decoupled from the freedom of people. Liberty is not only 'freedom to' but 'freedom from', including the right to be free from harassment, from racial abuse, and from the aggression and violence in speech and action that has become the way that some in our community engage with diversity.

I join the voices—political, religious, civil and individual—who have spoken out against the appalling comments made following the tragedy by Queensland Senator Fraser Anning. To openly blame the victims, to suggest that the murder of 50 innocent people is the inevitable consequence of a tolerant, non-discriminatory immigration policy is worse than ignorant. It is the vile rhetoric of racial extremism, morally repugnant and intellectually bankrupt.

It is easy enough to disown Senator Anning and his corrosive language, to say he does not speak for the overwhelming majority of Queenslanders or reflect our values, that his brand of xenophobic bile does not define what we stand for or what we believe in. It is simple enough to point out that he stumbled into the Senate entirely by accident and that he could only find 19 Queenslanders to cast their vote in his favour, including himself.

Today I want to make this point: Fraser Anning has not emerged from a vacuum. He was elected on the One Nation ticket—a party whose leader, Pauline Hanson, declared Islam a disease against which we need to inoculate, who shamed, denigrated and diminished our parliamentary system by wearing a burqa into the Senate chamber, a party leader who almost succeeded in having the Senate pass a motion proposed in her name declaring that it is 'okay to be white'.

It should never be forgotten that the One Nation party was preferenced by the Liberal National Party in 50 seats it ran for in the last state election. While the LNP positions itself as a party of the mainstream, it is happy to tacitly support malignant forces that inhabit the shadows of Australian politics.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr DICK: Never forget that it was Senator George Brandis, an LNP senator, who championed the right for people to be bigots.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr DICK: I call on the Leader of the Opposition, Deb Frecklington, to stand up once and for all—

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr DICK:—and to put One Nation last.

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, those interjections were out of line.