




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 22 October 2019

MOTION

Premier and Minister for Trade, Finding of Contempt

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (12.03 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion, and I am proud to rise in the House today to speak in support of the Premier. I have known our Premier now for 30 years. She has been a great supporter of me and my family—including last weekend, when she came and paid her respects to my late mother. In public life I am proud to stand with the Premier to champion and defend those values that define our modern Queensland.

The Premier's term has been marked by a range of social reforms that have led the nation in building a fairer and more tolerant community, celebrating diversity and providing legislative validation for human rights. That is what moral leadership looks like. That moral leadership could not be seen with greater clarity, coming after a government that sacked the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee in the middle of the night and referred to public servants in the most reprehensible terms. Queensland is fortunate to have a Premier who stands up for what she believes.

I want to take issue with what the member for Traeger said. The Premier's apology has not been qualified. The Premier's apology complies completely and fully with the report of the Ethics Committee tabled in the parliament today. The Premier's comments and her apology were unreserved, and she has said that in the parliament. We do not want this untruth about the Premier's apology to hang in the air. The Ethics Committee said that the Premier should say sorry for what she did. The Premier has done so. The Premier and the government respect and accept the findings of the Ethics Committee. However, I hope the Premier never says sorry for two things: her values and her beliefs. Can I say in the House today that her beliefs are my beliefs; they are the beliefs of all of the members of this side of the House; they are the beliefs of the Australian Labor Party.

All people are equal. All people have dignity. All people deserve respect, whatever the colour of their skin or whatever religion they follow. We will never, ever apologise for those beliefs. Freedom of speech and the right to be heard are not disconnected from the imperatives of civility. Citizenship carries with it responsibilities as well as rights. As I have said in this House previously, hate speech is not free speech: it is its nemesis. In the Premier, Queenslanders have a leader who will not—unlike the LNP—in the words of the former Queensland LNP senator George Brandis, 'stand up for the right of people to be bigots'. We will never stand up for these people. Our Premier will instead fight for the end of bigotry, as all members on this side of the House—and I hope all members of the House—will do.

Our Premier will not turn a blind eye or a deaf ear to calls for a 'final solution' on immigration, but she will stand up for the rights of all those who choose to call Queensland home because they want a decent life free from discrimination and persecution such as her very family, including her grandfather, who escaped a work camp in eastern Europe after the systematic, industrialised and bureaucratised death of six million people. Her family had to witness the industrialised murder of six million innocent people. When those words are said by a senator for Queensland, who we are ashamed to have represent our state, no wonder it strikes to the core of the Premier and her heart.

It is very, very pleasing that Fraser Anning served so briefly in the Senate. He was never elected to the Australian Senate, and that is the only thing we can take from his disgraceful career in public life in Australia. His views have, and will always be, condemned by right-thinking Queenslanders. His vile attack on the civil decency and acceptance that sits at the heart of our national identity was pushed back to the wilderness of the political fringe, and one can only hope that it never emerges again. I stand with the Premier and I support this motion.