




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 22 October 2019

MOTION

Premier and Minister for Trade, Finding of Contempt

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (12.08 pm): Can I be very clear. We have always condemned hate speech. The LNP has done that. In fact, as the Manager of Opposition Business pointed out, it was actually I who started and pushed the Premier to denounce the comments of Fraser Anning. It was this side of the chamber that called them out first. The previous senator's comments were indefensible—and that has been spoken about—but that is not what we are here to debate today.

What we are talking about in this chamber today is the fact that the Premier has been found in contempt. No other Premier in living history that we are aware of has been found in contempt of the parliament. The Premier's apology is inadequate. It is clear that the Premier still does not understand the issue around this matter. The Premier's threats and intimidation of the crossbench members were premeditated and calculated and they were for personal, political gain.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, comments will come through the chair.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The Premier's threats were made multiple times in this House and they were made at the Labor Party state conference. The only announcement in the Premier's speech at the Labor Party conference was a threat to withdraw resources from crossbench members unless they did what the Premier said they should do—and that is a threat. That is a disgraceful act of any person, let alone the Premier of this great state—a Premier who should show leadership when leadership is called for. To threaten the rights of an MP in this House is exactly why we are standing here today. This is a Premier who has been found in contempt of the parliament. The Premier has been rightly found to have committed a contempt of this parliament. The Premier has failed to take full responsibility for this, and it shows the character of this Premier.

This is not the first time this Premier has been found in contempt. I will quote from the report of the Ethics Committee in 2015, where it said that 'the Member for Inala's statements had an element of recklessness to them'—I repeat: an element of recklessness. The committee recommended that the member for Inala make a brief statement to clarify the statements she made. The report stated—

This privilege needs to be balanced with the responsibility of members to refrain from acting recklessly by making unqualified statements.

The Premier has form.

Ms Trad interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Deputy Premier will cease her interjections.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is clear that the Deputy Premier has led the integrity scandals in this state, where the Premier has been unable to show strong leadership against the integrity scandals that are happening day after day after day under her leadership. It does not matter whether it is the Deputy

Premier, the member for Toohey, the member for Keppel, the Minister for Employment and Small Business or the police minister. This is a Premier who fails to show leadership time after time. She is a weak Premier. The fact that we are standing in this chamber when a Premier has been found in contempt shows exactly the type of Premier we have here in Queensland—a Premier who is the weakest Premier that Queensland has ever seen.

Mr SPEAKER: Your closing remarks are unparliamentary and I ask you to withdraw them.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw.