




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 27 February 2019

MOTION

State Schools, Air Conditioning

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (5.02 pm): I move—

That this House calls on the Palaszczuk Labor government to adopt the LNP's plan to air-condition every Queensland state school classroom.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the member for Chatsworth. It is cold in here because the aircon is on. Could you imagine the uproar of Labor members if we turned the aircon off—turned that little switch off? Imagine the uproar.

An opposition member: A breach of their human rights.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take that interjection. It would be a breach of Labor's human rights to not have aircon. They would have a case to make to Commissioner McDougall of the Human Rights Commission. Can you imagine the Labor ministers down in their nice offices without the aircon on? Can you imagine the Annexe without the aircon on? How long has this parliament had air conditioning? It is expected by Labor members in government that they work in air-conditioned offices. It is expected, as it should be, for public servants to work in air-conditioned offices.

Why is it different for our teachers? Why is it different for our tuckshop workers? Why is it different for our students, our teacher aides, our support staff in our schools? Why is it when you are in a school south of Gladstone that you do not have the right to have air conditioning in your school? Why is that the case?

The best the minister can come out with is, 'I'd love to air-condition schools and I'm sure the Premier would love to as well, but it's impossible to do so.' How is it impossible? You pick up the phone to the aircon mob, you pay the money and you get the aircon installed. It is not impossible. I look at the member for Buderim sitting up there. He would have a Buderim aircon mob that would be able to air-condition his classrooms. It is not that hard.

The minister said it was impossible and then she said it would take five to 10 years. If it is impossible, how is it going to take five to 10 years? She admitted that it can be done. The minister admitted that it can be done. You put it in the budget.

The LNP has committed to air-condition every state classroom over two terms of this parliament. The Labor Party objected to it. The Labor Party do not want to air-condition classrooms. I have been to classrooms in Ipswich. It is over 40 degrees in some of those classrooms in Ipswich. I would love to see how the members for Ipswich and Ipswich West vote on this motion tonight. We have seen the emails that their P&Cs have sent to their electorate offices. How will they vote on this motion? They are happy to put solar panels on the roofs of classrooms but they are not happy to air-condition the classrooms.

The Labor Party does not think it is impossible to air-condition classrooms. The minister might think it is impossible. Good friend of the Premier's Gail Hislop, the candidate for Burleigh on two occasions, thinks you can air-condition classrooms.

Mrs Frecklington: What did she say?

Mr BLEIJIE: I will tell you what the Labor candidate for Burleigh said. She said—

A win for Burleigh school students: we have secured a commitment from Queensland Labor of \$50 000 to fund the purchase and installation of five air conditioning units for classrooms.

Unless you have been in one of those classrooms in the peak of summer, it is hard to describe the sweltering conditions and just how distracting the temperature can get, especially for younger children. This funding will go some way to improving conditions for students ...

I table the Labor candidate for Burleigh's post.

Tabled paper. Extract, undated, from Facebook page titled 'Gail Hislop for Burleigh' [\[267\]](#).

How can the Labor candidate for Burleigh think it is okay to air-condition schools? You might think she said that during the election campaign. No, she said it in January this year. Guess what? The post has been deleted from Facebook because I suspect the minister's office made the call and said, 'Get it down. We don't want to commit to it.'

If it is okay for Labor to think the kids of Burleigh can have air-conditioned classrooms, why is it not okay for the kids in Bundamba, Buderim, Coomera, Kawana—everywhere? The only party that will air-condition every state school classroom is the Liberal National Party. It is time the minister stopped getting the excuses book out and just admitted she got it wrong, fix it and air-condition every state school classroom in Queensland.

(Time expired)