




Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Record of Proceedings, 28 February 2019

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Crime Stoppers; Redlands Electorate, Leadership

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.44 pm): Today I rise to talk about leadership, vision and keeping promises. Before I do, the member for Toowoomba North's contribution was really disappointing. Crime Stoppers is doing an amazing job. That sort of scare campaign is just hurting our community. I give a shout-out to Paul Fitzpatrick in my area. He is doing a great job leading Crime Stoppers.

Over the past few weeks I have attended a number of wonderful leadership ceremonies at my schools. There have been inspiring speeches from principals to our students on the characteristics of leadership, with an emphasis on the need to be respectful, honest and to work cooperatively in developing a shared vision for their school community. I thank all of the principals. Their leadership has been incredible in this process. In the Redlands there has been a lot of talk about leadership, particularly amongst elected representatives. In the Redlands we have had a 'pledge not to sledge' campaign. It is great in its intention, but to some elected representatives signing a pledge and abiding by it are two very different things.

I know that many in my community are sick and tired of the ongoing poor behaviour. They want to see respectful communication, they want to see honesty and they want to see their elected representatives cooperating. Being honest and keeping promises is critical to integrity and I want to reaffirm to my community that, unlike some other elected representatives who have gone before me and indeed many promises made by our current federal member, I will only ever promise what I know I can deliver. I am not in the business of raising community hopes to then dash them with pre-election cheap political stunts.

I also want to talk about vision, and yesterday the member for Broadwater in his contribution touched on the fact that leaders need to have a vision. I agree that it is important to have that, but it has to be shared and it has to be one that is developed in consultation and with input from our communities. Importantly, we have to have a plan to support the vision with access to genuine funding. It is important to listen and consult. We had the Prime Minister and our federal member in Redlands recently, yet they have not done that. On the Prime Minister's recent drop-in he made an underfunded promise to upgrade Wellington Street in Cleveland. The Prime Minister and the federal member are clearly out of touch. They have not listened to the needs of our community nor taken the time to consult properly and authentically. Promising a road upgrade that is premised on putting politics before people is not okay. Our federal member knows that Cleveland Redland Bay Road is the priority. He has talked a big game on Cleveland Redland Bay Road over many years, but when it comes to putting rubber to the road he would prefer to put politics before people.

Last week our federal member also promised dollar-for-dollar funding to upgrade the Redlands Hospital car park. Minister Miles has written to the federal health minister to have this confirmed. If this is a genuine commitment, we will see a minimum \$7.5 million included in this federal budget that is only

weeks away. Although I worry that the track record of broken promises by our federal member has been strong, seeing the dollars in this budget will confirm the authenticity of his promise. I really do hope that he is a man of his word. A shared vision is important. Infrastructure is important. Keeping promises and putting people before politics is even more important.