



Speech By  
**Lachlan Millar**


**MEMBER FOR GREGORY**

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Record of Proceedings, 5 September 2019

**MOTION**

**Newman LNP Government, Performance**

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (12.00 pm): I rise to speak against this motion. I do that because when it comes to North Queensland we have seen a change in attitude from the Labor Party only because of the federal election. It was the federal election that changed their attitude. The federal election is why we are here in Townsville today. The Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament had 10 weeks to get this organised. Normally it takes a year to organise a regional parliament and you have had this one organised in 10 weeks.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Gregory will put his comments through the chair.

**Mr MILLAR:** Absolutely, Mr Speaker. Prior to the federal election, where did the members for Townsville, Mundingburra and Thuringowa stand on the issue of Adani? Where was their support for the jobs that Adani would create? Were they standing up to demand the approval of the Adani project, which should have been approved a long time ago? They were missing. Were you getting behind Adani and making sure that we have jobs for Townsville? Where was the member for Rockhampton?

**Mr Purdie** interjected.

**Mr Saunders** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. The member for Maryborough is warned under the standing orders. Member for Ninderry, you were interjecting and you are already under a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Ninderry withdrew from the chamber at 12.01 pm.*

**Mr MILLAR:** Those members suddenly found an interest in Adani only after the federal election. In fact, we saw what happened. Straight after the federal election there were phone calls going everywhere. The backbenchers were going to revolt. There was a hook-up. The member for Stafford started to do the numbers, to see if Minister Dick could become the premier. The problem is that you have shown an interest in Townsville only after—

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member will put his comments through the chair.

**Mr MILLAR:** You have found an interest in Townsville only—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, member! Pause the clock. For your guidance, member, I will give examples: 'those opposite' or 'the government', not 'you'. That is my last warning to members.

**Mr MILLAR:** The Labor Party found an interest in Adani only after the federal election. In their motion they talk about 'other parts of Queensland'. Where is the \$5 million to fight prickly acacia in Western Queensland? The minister for agriculture issued a press release with the federal Minister for Agriculture, promising \$5 million, matching the federal government's \$5 million, so that we can stop

prickly acacia getting into the Channel Country. Around Christmas time last year, the state minister for agriculture rolled up to Longreach and announced that the agriculture college in Emerald and the pastoral college in Longreach would close.

**Mr Batt:** Closing schools.

**Mr MILLAR:** They are closing down schools and education in Western Queensland. We need an LNP government for Townsville and for regional Queensland. We need to back jobs in regional Queensland. We do not need to be closing down regional Queensland by closing down the agriculture colleges.

They talk about asset sales, but the only assets sold were sold by the Labor Party. One of those assets was Queensland Rail, which has had a devastating effect on Western Queensland freight services. We have not seen a decent rail service in Western Queensland since the Labor Party sold Queensland Rail and destroyed regional jobs in places such as Winton, Alpha and Barcaldine.