




Speech By
Lachlan Millar

MEMBER FOR GREGORY

Record of Proceedings, 28 November 2019

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Bushfire Prevention and Preparedness, Parliamentary Inquiry

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (2.25 pm): Yesterday during debate on the Leader of the Opposition's motion for a full parliamentary inquiry into the Queensland bushfires, the member for Keppel opposed the right of locals in her electorate to have their say. The member for Keppel sweepingly stated that the people of Central Queensland do not want an inquiry. Yesterday, while the member for Keppel was on her feet speaking and voting against a bushfire inquiry, Mr Clothier and other Keppel constituents were at a community meeting organised by council to discuss the impact of the Yeppoon and Cobraball bushfires. At about the same time the member for Keppel was putting herself and Mr Clothier into *Hansard*, Mr Clothier was putting forward two motions to the local meeting calling for a full public inquiry. I table this for the House.

Tabled paper. Motions, dated 27 November 2019, presented by Mr Leon Clothier in relation to the Cobraball bushfire disaster [2189](#).

At about the same time the member for Keppel was voting against her constituents' right to answers, her constituents were unanimously passing Mr Clothier's two motions calling for a full public inquiry. Mr Clothier and many of his neighbours and fellow ratepayers are asking for exactly the same thing the LNP motion proposed: a full public inquiry. Did the member for Keppel actually speak to Mr Clothier after he was ravaged by bushfires? I am sure she did. If the member did, was she listening to him and others in the electorate?

Members of the Labor Party would have known that locals in Central Queensland are demanding a public inquiry into these bushfires. They want the truth and the opportunity to improve that it brings. What a disgrace that the Labor Party has sold out local communities in favour of green political cover-ups being run by the Labor government. The people of Keppel and the rest of Queensland are demanding and deserve answers. They need answers on the 83 per cent reduction in overall completed fire prevention activities, the 75 per cent reduction in completed hazard reduction burns, the 82 per cent reduction in completed firebreaks and the 88 per cent reduction in community education activities.

Queenslanders deserve a full and public parliamentary inquiry, but Labor members are once again denying Queenslanders the right to some answers. In doing that, they are denying Queenslanders the chance to improve bushfire preparedness. I call on the Labor Party to support a full parliamentary inquiry into the bushfires. It will be made up of three members of the Labor Party, two members of the LNP and a member of the crossbench. It will have a parliamentary opportunity to find out what is actually happening with these bushfires. There is nothing to hide. Members opposite have nothing to hide in regard to a parliamentary inquiry. We have parliamentary inquiries all the time. Why not have a full parliamentary inquiry into the Queensland bushfires? From what we learn we can ensure we do not repeat the mistakes we have made again and again. I call on Labor members to back a full parliamentary inquiry into the bushfires.