




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 22 October 2019

MOTION

Premier and Minister for Trade, Finding of Contempt

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (11.42 am): I move—

That this House—

1. notes the Ethics Committee report No. 189, tabled in the House today;
2. finds the Premier in contempt for her actions in improperly influencing the KAP members, such actions including:
 - (a) the Premier's response to the question without notice on 22 August 2018;
 - (b) the statements quoted in the media on 22 August 2018;
 - (c) the correspondence to the member for Traeger on 23 August 2018;
 - (d) the speech at the ALP Queensland state conference on 2 September 2018; and
 - (e) the media release on 2 September 2018;
3. determines under section 38 (Decisions on contempt) of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 that the Premier's conduct be now dealt with by this House as a contempt; and
4. accepts the Premier's apology made today to the House as adequate, and the appropriate and final penalty in accordance with section 39—Assembly's power to deal with contempt—of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001.

In moving this motion, I note that the Premier and Minister for Trade has already made a statement to this House this morning, at the first available opportunity, fulfilling the requirements of the report which was tabled by the chairperson of the Ethics Committee this morning. The Premier should be commended for her swift response to the report, where she has apologised. This action and the time frame in which the honourable Premier has done so speaks volumes about the character of the woman who leads our great state. This is the same character she showed when she railed against those racist and xenophobic comments of former senator Anning.

After all, we were not elected to stand aside when we see wrongs. We were elected to stand up. That is what the Premier did last September. She stood up to be counted. She stood up against ignorance and fearmongering. She stood up for the values we hold dear in this state and in this country. She led and she showed the integrity that the people of Queensland expect from a premier.

Let us go back to the words of the Katter Australian Party's former senator Fraser Anning in his first speech. He said a plebiscite on immigration would be 'the final solution' to stop Muslims from coming to our country. He called Muslims criminals, welfare cheats and terrorists. He called for a return to the White Australia policy.

Did our Premier stay silent in the face of this attack on our values? No, she stood up. The then Anti-Discrimination Commission applauded the Premier's actions. It stated—

Her actions demonstrate that Anning and Katter's words are not who we are as a nation and that if we ignore these outrageous and troubling sentiments that appeal to xenophobia, we empower them.

It should be remembered that Anning's first speech was only a sign of things to come. He went on to blame Muslims for the Christchurch massacre. He used taxpayer funds to fly around the country to meet fellow alternative right figures. He attended a racist rally where some people made Nazi salutes.

The Premier called him out early and often. Other Australians made their opinions known as well. A million people signed a petition calling for Anning to be removed from parliament. In the last federal election former senator Anning received just 19 votes. The people of Australia spoke. The people of Queensland spoke clearly about what they thought of this individual's statements—that is, they do not reflect the views and beliefs of this great state and country. The people of Australia showed that we are people who are tolerant, respectful and inclusive and that we support diversity in this country.

The Premier is on the right side of history. She will also be on the right side of history by ruling out a preference deal with One Nation. I challenge the opposition: will they rule out a deal with One Nation? I am very proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government, which takes a stand on the big issues. I am proud to have a real leader as our Premier. She is a premier who has delivered reform and a positive future for Queenslanders. She has led big reforms based on the best available evidence around serious and organised crime and tackling alcohol fuelled violence. She has introduced big changes to promote integrity in our political and electoral systems. She has delivered more than 200,000 jobs in this great state. She has restored frontline health and education services cut by the Newman LNP government. She has kept our assets in public hands, meaning cheaper electricity prices and a stronger economy. She has slashed payroll tax, invested in free apprenticeships, increased Queensland's health funding by billions and employed an extra 6,000 nurses, midwives and doctors.

This is a Premier I proudly stand side by side with, sit around the cabinet table with and follow around this great state to make sure we are acting in the best interests of Queenslanders. The Premier leads a government that is delivering for all Queenslanders. I am very proud to be part of that team.