



Speech By
Barry O'Rourke

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

Record of Proceedings, 13 August 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Rockhampton Electorate, Political Campaigning

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (6.22 pm): With so much going on around us, one would think that this might be the year that we could put gutter politics behind us. Sadly, that has not been the case in Central Queensland where we have seen some disgraceful behaviour. The worst example would be Dominic Doblo, a prominent local businessman and close ally of the mayor, who has been going around spreading disgusting slurs. I have been told by three well-known members of the community that Mr Doblo has said to them words to the effect of, 'The only reason someone would put their signs on schools like Barry has is if they're a paedophile.' The signs he talks about are the same as those that have been put up by other MPs of all stripes across the state. He is free to criticise that if he likes, but his behaviour is cheap, nasty and pathetic. I talk about gutter politics. This descends to the level of the sewer. I tried to take it up with him in person but, as is typical of people who behave the way he has, he took the cowardly route and did everything he could to avoid me.

On top of this, One Nation candidates have lowered themselves to putting up personal attacks against the member for Keppel and me on corflutes. To be honest, I find these more amusing than offensive. They are just childish antics of campaigns that have little to offer beyond attacks on our strong COVID response, but I can assure the local candidates that it is turning people off. On a positive note, I had a good conversation with my LNP opponent, Tony Hopkins, recently where we both agreed to focus on issues, not personal attacks. He is a genuinely decent man and though we disagree on a lot of things we can debate these respectfully, and that is how it should be.