



Speech By  
**Julianne Gilbert**


**MEMBER FOR MACKAY**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 August 2020

**MOTION**

**Liberal National Party, Commitments**

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (5.35 pm): I rise to oppose this motion. The motion we are debating clearly demonstrates how out of touch the LNP is and how it is continuing to fail the people who live in regional Queensland. This morning we heard them complaining about potential job losses from Virgin despite the fact that they opposed the Queensland government doing anything to save the airline.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Is the Assistant Treasurer working on that budget?

**Mrs GILBERT:** Mr Deputy Speaker, do you remember when you were a high school principal that there was that bunch of mean girls who thought if you were mean you were a good leader? Wasn't it shameful? There will be a much larger number of jobs that will be saved in Queensland because of the support of the airline by the Palaszczuk government. The successful bidder, Bain Capital, has made that clear. If Virgin were to collapse it would be a disaster for regional Queensland, including my own community of Mackay, yet that would have occurred if the LNP had been in government. Without Virgin operating their larger planes there is very limited opportunity for air freight in and out of Mackay.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The member is not talking to the motion that is before the House.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Member for Mackay, I will give you a little latitude.

**Mrs GILBERT:** Thank you. I will talk about the Virgin part of the motion. We do need to have Virgin and Virgin jobs in Mackay. Local company Ultra Coral had to drive their coral exports to Brisbane in the back of a ute because there is a 24-hour turnaround which could not be achieved if Virgin does not operate in regional Queensland. We need to have Virgin operating in regional Queensland so that our businesses can survive, let alone dream to thrive. Those opposite did nothing to help keep that airline afloat. The mining sector was also required to charter 13 flights out of Mackay. We need those larger airlines like Virgin and we need to have those jobs that go with it. Those opposite do not get regional Queensland. They are happy to throw regional Queensland under the bus because they are just thinking about the south-east corner.

This motion continues the proud LNP tradition of providing false hope, of promising one thing before the election and delivering something very different after it. It is easy to promise things that you have no intention of delivering and that you do not know how to deliver; you simply refuse to reveal how those commitments will be funded. It is reasonable to question how serious they are about delivering them. They say that the best—

**Ms Simpson** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, member for Maroochydore.

**Mrs GILBERT:** Oh dear, the girls are at it! No matter what the LNP might say of their intentions, the proof of what they do can be drawn from what they have done. The list of their promises contained in this motion have all the credibility of the Campbell Newman promise that public servants had nothing

to fear. However, some aspects of the motion have some merit, mainly because they are copied from the work that we are already doing such as air-conditioning classrooms which has been completed in nearly 400 schools, including in every school north of Gladstone, which of course means every school in my electorate of Mackay, and reducing electricity prices. Under those opposite electricity prices went up, up, up.

The difference is that our plans are properly developed, funded and, in many instances, underway. Who remembers those opposite doing a song and dance about the Mackay showgrounds upgrade not being started when we had already cut the ribbon? They do not know what is going on in regional Queensland. They need to get on the page. I oppose the motion.