




Speech By
Melissa McMahon

MEMBER FOR MACALISTER

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ADJOURNMENT

Logan, Multiculturalism

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (7.21 pm): I stand here as a proudly elected member of parliament along with other colleagues representing the great city of Logan. I have lived and worked in Logan almost my entire adult life. It is a city that has grown and changed over the past 20-plus years. It is a city that does not stand still, it is vibrant and it is a melting pot. All manner of worlds collide in Logan and when there is collision there is energy. The beating heart of that energy is its people. Logan accepts and invites people from all walks of life. In Logan you are welcome. Logan is home to over 320,000 people from more than 217 different cultures. This is truly Logan's greatest treasure—its diversity. If Australia can be seen as a successful demonstration of multiculturalism in action, then Logan deserves to be its flagship. This success comes from the fact that we have embraced a multiculturalism grounded in diversity, not assimilation. In its very simplest terms multiculturalism means that there is public endorsement and recognition of cultural diversity. It means that a national community accepts that its common identity may evolve to reflect its composition, and Logan has evolved and it has embraced multiculturalism. One just has to look in our schoolyards and on our sporting fields to see this.

With the unique and not-so-unique challenges that Logan and many other growing communities face when diversity and disadvantage coexist, Logan is always at risk from the politics of division. The choice that this thriving city has on 28 March is an important one because there is so much at stake. We have a Logan mayoral aspirant, Paul Taylor, who less than a year ago stood in front of the Holland Park Mosque next to Fraser Anning highlighting what he called the dangers of Islam. Paul Taylor, who is running for mayor, seeks the support of groups calling themselves the Australian Patriots who will assist him in stopping Islamic forces from taking over our council. This is someone who seeks to be a mayor of one of Australia's most ethnically diverse cities and from the outset seems to vilify and demean a valued community within our city.

Tonight Logan hosts a citizenship ceremony. It represents everything I love about a multicultural Logan. It is bright, it is brilliant, it is full of smiles and it is full of pride. I am proud of my city and I am proud of those hundred or so residents who tonight will become citizens. Perhaps Mr Taylor should take a quick refresher on what it is that these new Australians are saying tonight: we pledge our loyalty to Australia and its people whose democratic beliefs I share and whose rights and liberties I respect and whose laws I will uphold and obey.

Logan City has a cultural diversity policy, the most recent being in effect since 2017. I call on all prospective mayoral candidates to indicate their intention to support Logan City Council's Cultural Diversity Policy or to state otherwise.