




Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Record of Proceedings, 16 July 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Gold Coast; Jackson, Ms K

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (6.12 pm): For the past five years, the Palaszczuk Labor government has treated the people of the Gold Coast like second-class citizens. That is so when it is playing petty games over funding splits on important infrastructure upgrades on the M1 or Gold Coast Light Rail, dragging their feet on the Second M1—a project the member for Macalister has said could take 40 years to build. It is so when the government is rolling out the red carpet to organised crime by watering down tough laws and resources for police, which has seen a resurgence of criminal bikies, or overseeing increased youth crime and domestic and family violence, putting the safety of locals at risk. It is so when it is promising to build a global tourism hub, a project that would support 6,000 local jobs but is now all but dead in the water. It is so when Labor is shifting the goalposts on a new cruise ship terminal at the same time that it is supporting a second one in Brisbane.

That is so when the government is suggesting that the sea breeze on the Gold Coast is enough to keep kids cool in schools and then backflipping and adopting the LNP's air-conditioning policy. It is so when it is sending word from Brisbane to drive bulldozers through our prized picnic areas with no community consultation and no warning. It is so when it is scaring everyone away for the Commonwealth Games, only to realise the Gold Coast was a ghost town when it was too late. It is so when the government is undermining the property rights of local families with draconian residential tenancy laws that had to be scrapped in an embarrassing about face or is continuing to strangle small businesses with extra taxes that cost jobs. It is so when it is allowing unemployment levels on the Gold Coast to skyrocket, with 11,400 jobs lost in May alone and, recently, using the guise of COVID-19 to increase land valuations of our hinterland properties by 500 per cent and driving local farmers out of the area with new sky-high rates charges. The list of Labor failures is endless.

It is no wonder that there is only one Labor MP out of 11 seats on the Gold Coast. After 31 October, the good people of Gaven will look forward to much better representation from Kirsten Jackson as their local member of parliament. Throughout the COVID pandemic, the incumbent member for Gaven has been missing in action. She is silent on the important issues affecting people on the Gold Coast. Only now are we seeing her crawl out of the woodwork, as Brisbane's chess piece, to take pictures and promote developments outside the Gaven area.

I am proud to say that the LNP candidate for Gaven, Kirsten Jackson, is someone who understands the issues in Gaven and will represent what local families need. Kirsten's family, the Goodings and the Nielsens, have been farming and living in the area since 1872 and have several roads named after them, including Gooding Drive and Nielsens Road. Kirsten is someone who will stand up for Gaven and the Gold Coast and not go missing in action when it counts or be dictated to by Brisbane. Kirsten Jackson is a local mum and a small business owner and, after two years of listening to people on the ground, she is exactly who the people of Gaven need to secure their economic future.

(Time expired)