



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 24 March 2021

**MOTION**

**Women**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (2.07 pm): I am pleased to rise this afternoon to support the motion moved by the Premier. The last few weeks have reminded all of us that so many women in Queensland have stories to tell about being denied the right to be safe in their home, in their workplace and in the community. The heart-wrenching stories from so many women and the misplaced responses from men in recent weeks tell us clearly there is much more—so much more—to be done. This is not something for women to fix or to address or for them to change their behaviour. Men committed the assaults, men broke the laws, men orchestrated the cover-ups, and men dictated the language to doubt or downplay or disregard women.

The sad fact is that despite everything we have heard from women in recent weeks, including the stories I heard at last week's March 4 Justice in Brisbane, too many men continue to fail to listen to women, and these are the men who need to listen hardest. In that vein I can think of no better use of my remaining time than to call on these men to listen—men in power and men who claim they are powerless.

We do not need men in power asking women to stand with them a week after telling the same women that they should be grateful they were not being shot in the street. Instead, we need men to stand with women. We do not need men in power weaponising their tears or responding to questions with unjustified indignance and spurious accusations. Instead, we need men to empower women. We do not need men in power issuing formulaic apologies. Instead, we need men to genuinely atone. We do not need men in power relying on their mates to confirm that near enough is good enough, to walk away from their responsibilities and to be grateful that the footy is back on. Instead, we need men to hold other men, including and especially their mates, to account. We need men to demand better of other men. We have built and continue to build a strong and vibrant economy in Queensland, but it will mean absolutely nothing if, in turn, we cannot build a society that ensures Queensland women are safe from, in the words of this motion, the threat of harassment and assault. It will mean nothing if we cannot build a society that sees all of us, regardless of our gender, race, religion or way of life, as equals.

*(Time expired)*