




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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ADJOURNMENT

Myanmar

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (6.21 pm): There are some events where words fail us, where language is inadequate in communicating what is happening because the events unfolding before us shock us to the core. There are some events where the brutality and barbarity are so profound that it challenges our notion of human capability and our understanding of the human condition itself. These events are more than just examples of man's inhumanity to man. They are reminders of the fragility of the democratic project and the tenuous hold and influence the rule of law has on human action. What is happening in Myanmar right now is such an event.

The world continues to watch in horror as Myanmar military and security forces systematically and brutally crush peaceful protests against the coup that began last month. This brutal action by the regime represents a direct attack on democratic values and human rights. The violence is shocking; it is so profound it will be a terrible injury to that nation's history. The worst conflicts are civil conflicts and this event is sadly no exception. Even in the face of this awful assault, the bravery, courage and fearlessness of the protesters, many of whom are teenagers and young people, are extraordinary and inspiring to see.

More than 3,000 Queenslanders were born in Myanmar, including a large number of people who live in the community of Woodridge. These Queenslanders make significant contributions to all aspects of our state in medicine, business, education and the arts and to our social, cultural and community dynamic. We thank them most sincerely for that.

When I was elected to represent the people of Woodridge I promised them I would be their voice to bring about change. That is why I speak on behalf of my friends from Myanmar in the House tonight. Tonight I urge the Morrison government to do everything in its power to hold the military junta in Myanmar to account for its assault on democracy and its appalling human rights abuses and to continue to work with our Asia-Pacific neighbours, in fact, everyone around the world who longs to see the rule of law and democracy restored in Myanmar.

I am proud to serve in a Labor government that has elevated respect and human rights to the centre of political debate in this state. Our government's Human Rights Act and our Human Rights Commission show that the Palaszczuk Labor government puts human rights first. Now is the time for all governments around the world to do the same, to stand up for human rights and to stand up for the people of Myanmar.