




Speech By
Jessica Pugh

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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ADJOURNMENT

Darra State School

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (9.35 pm): I must confess: I outsourced the writing of my speech this evening. I did not write it myself; I employed a crack team of the best and brightest minds in Queensland. I asked them to put something together for me. They are the very best speechwriters that money cannot buy. I am talking, of course, about the wonderful year 6 students at my very own Darra State School.

Last week I visited Darra State School in lieu of their trip to the Queensland parliament. It had to be cancelled due to a COVID lockdown. Because they could not come to parliament, I am bringing their voices into this, the people's place: the Queensland parliament. I asked them to tell me the issues they would address when they became the leaders and the captains of industry of tomorrow, and they gave me a list so long I am very worried about squeezing it all into three minutes!

They have been telling me all about the sustainability project they have been doing at school and their fundraising projects to purchase incubators to hatch more chickens. I asked the students to think about some of the issues they would like to address. They did not need any time at all. Quick as look at you, young Liam put his hand straight up and said, 'I'm concerned about deforestation.' He told me and the class that he is concerned about the loss of animal habitat and the effect on the environment and on the climate. The next student was equally quick off the mark, and within a few minutes these bright kids had listed off pollution, climate change, global warming, littering and the loss of animal habitat. I want to be clear: this is something these kids have been thinking about for a long time. They have thought deeply about these issues. They want to be part of the solution.

The kids did not stop there. There was one lovely young man whom I will call M. He said that he would really like to see an end to smoking. It was a very personal issue for him. I was really taken with his quiet and determined consideration of this issue, and I told him that the Chief Health Officer of Queensland certainly shares his passion for this, and so do I.

The students also raised the issue of racism. That is incredibly important to the students at Darra, because a lot of them have parents who do not speak English at home. Mental health was a big issue that was raised a lot as well, especially considering the last year. The kids also raised traffic issues including traffic congestion on the Centenary Motorway. There is no-one in my electorate who is too young to care about that. Interestingly, they also mentioned people's driving. A few mentioned that the terrible traffic congestion sometimes stopped their mums and dads getting home to have more quality time. That just goes to show that at the end of the day there is nothing more important than time with family and friends.

To my crack team of speechwriters at Darra State School I say thank you very much. I want you to know that the members of parliament here tonight have heard your voices loud and clear. I cannot wait to see you turn your amazing words into incredible action.