




Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Record of Proceedings, 20 April 2021

MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Federal Member for Bowman

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.53 pm): Albert Einstein once said, ‘The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything.’ In the last sitting of parliament we had an important motion before the House—a motion that sought to highlight the importance of justice and equality for women, a motion that sought to condemn the harassment and assault of women across Queensland and a motion that sought to support women across Queensland to feel safe in their home, workplace and community.

There were many important contributions, but I want to focus on a few from the other side of the House because they now know what has been well covered in the media in the last fortnight in my Redlands community—the actions of the LNP federal member for Bowman: bullying, harassing, inappropriate behaviour at its minimum directed at the very people he is meant to represent. I highlight these contributions because words can be very cheap if they are not backed up with action.

In the last sitting we heard from the member for Broadwater and Leader of the Opposition. In his contribution he said—

Not only do I support it—
the motion—

but may I say how timely it is.

...

If, as a leader of a major political party, my contribution can show that this is a matter that is serious and one that must reflect cultural change, I will join with the Premier in not only supporting the motion but proudly saying that we are in this House together to do so.

My question to the Leader of the Opposition is: if he is genuine about that statement and he is genuine about wanting to see cultural change, will he call on the LNP member for Bowman to resign from the LNP?

The member for Toowoomba South in his contribution said—

I rise to speak in support of the motion before the House. I honour the courage of so many women who have recently spoken about their experiences, their harassment and their assaults ... Many of these experiences have been kept in silence for too long—unspoken, and quietly and painfully carried every day.

Enough is enough.

My question to the member for Toowoomba South is: will he remain silent on the LNP federal member for Bowman, or does he genuinely believe enough is enough?

The member for Nanango in her contribution said—

I am very pleased to stand in this chamber and use the position of power that I have—and we all should unite—to condemn these vile actions.

My question to the member for Nanango is: will she use her power in this place to condemn the actions of the federal member for Bowman?

The member for Moggill in his contribution said—

To think of some of the instances where people have been sexually harassed, bullied and intimidated with the stories we have heard is just truly shocking ... collectively as a society we need to lead cultural change ...

...

Every single woman, regardless of background, creed, age or religious affiliation, needs to be safe in their workplace and in their community environment.

Will the member for Moggill be a leader in cultural change? Will he call out the behaviour of the LNP federal member for Bowman?

The member for Burdekin in his contribution said—

My message to other men is a simple one ...

...

As a state, as a nation, as a community and as men we have work to do and it is work that must be done for the benefit of every man, woman and child in this country. For me there is a very simple message here and that is respect: respect for women, for who they are, what they can achieve and what they contribute.

My question to the member for Burdekin is: do you condone the actions of your federal LNP member for Bowman and what would your simple message to him be?

The member for Clayfield in his contribution said—

... I think they have shocked many men by exposing behaviour that is utterly incomprehensible and utterly unacceptable. On no planet is it understandable, funny, appropriate or acceptable for men to behave in the way that we have seen in the past month.

...

I say to all men that being a man does not mean it is okay to mistreat women. It does not mean it is okay to objectify and denigrate. Being a man means behaving properly, with respect, care and decency.

My question to the member for Clayfield is: will you set that example? Will you call out the actions and behaviours of the LNP member for Bowman?

I am not sure if anybody had a chance to read the *Gold Coast Bulletin* on the weekend. I will table this piece.

Tabled paper: Bundle of media articles relating to the Federal member for Bowman, Mr Andrew Laming [516](#).

The contribution from the member for Burleigh speaks to why change is so difficult for the LNP. It absolutely speaks to that. To state in this current climate that 'the pendulum has swung too far' is seriously beyond belief. I call on him to reflect deeply on his statements in the media on the matter of how far that pendulum has swung.

As I said in my contribution, going forward no-one inside or outside of this chamber can be a bystander. To those LNP members opposite, if the Prime Minister will not call on the member for Bowman to resign from the LNP, will the Leader of the Opposition and those on the other side of this House turn their words of the last sitting into meaningful actions and call on the LNP member for Bowman to be disendorsed, just like they did with the former LNP member for Whitsunday for similar behaviour? I call on the LNP to do the right thing.

(Time expired)