




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 24 March 2021

MOTION

Women

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (2.49 pm): I rise to fully support the motion moved by the Premier. I acknowledge the very courageous contributions from my colleagues across the spectrum and their personal stories. I acknowledge the support of the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Whitsunday and others for the motion.

Despite substantial advances for women in my adult lifetime—we have had two women premiers, an opposition leader, a prime minister, two governors, a chief justice and a governor-general—for those who support equal rights for women and for all people it is sobering to hear the stories of so many women and know that there are so many instances of sexual harassment and violence to this day, including rape. It is shocking. It is known to many people, but I think more people understand now than did a fortnight ago.

Between now and equality stand all too many perpetrators in our community who are so disconnected from others, who are so disdainful of women and who are ultimately fearful of women. Who are these perpetrators? They are men who shun real and actual intimacy and try to force their selfish, one-sided desires on others against their will. They are small men who take out their underdevelopment and their fear on others, damaging them in the process. Being a man is not about enforcing your will on women. That is not being male; that is succumbing to hatred. That is what this is about: hatred and people exercising it. Ignoring the will of others via sexual harassment and violence is criminal. It is not masculine. We have to do better as men. Sadly, we see it across the spectrum and across classes. We can do much better as a society and a community.

The question is: what must be done? Obviously, we clearly need to strengthen our legal system so that women can be better supported when crimes have been committed against them by perpetrators. We need to prevent it in the first place. To men in particular I say: we need to speak up for women every single time we see hatred being pushed forward by other men, particularly when it is only men together. When men share sexist jokes or practise ridicule of women in the presence of other men, those other men must stand up and enforce the standard that we support our women—that we support our daughters, our sisters, our wives and our partners. It is not good enough. Whether it is at the footy, on the street, on the bus or train or even on holiday, we have to stand up for equality every single time and set a higher standard. That is what we should do. Evil prospers when good people do nothing. We, as men, need to stand up for our women every single time and raise the standard.