




Speech By
Sandy Bolton

MEMBER FOR NOOSA

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ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (11.35 am), continuing: I will continue from some weeks ago. As individuals, and Queenslanders, we all need to accept our responsibility to each other and to be held accountable for our behaviours. As MPs, we set examples for our communities. Sadly, at all levels of government we continue to see the need for change, and I thank our Speaker for his commitment to better behaviours. I am also grateful to fellow MPs in this chamber and all in this precinct who show respect for each other regardless of gender or ideology. May these efforts and the headlines that have dominated regarding the treatment of women in other parliaments be a catalyst.

As we continue our COVID recovery we cannot forget the lessons learnt nor the stories from our constituents. That ‘can-do’ attitude from the emergency phase we must regain and then retain, as already at times I am seeing it being lost, with lengthy delays through stretched resources.

We can resolve the big issues without resorting to the standard cry and outrage across the chamber of ‘more’, as ultimately this is disempowering. What is needed is a call out of ‘how’—how to better utilise what we have, what we know and what we have access to. There is so much to be intensely grateful for. My appreciation I have stated before and will again to government; to the Premier and Dr Jeannette Young; to ministers and all departments; and to those front liners, agencies, volunteer organisations and communities across Queensland who have never faulted to rally together to support us and each other, to mask up when needed and to keep up their regimes. Noosa, you especially rock!

To all MPs in this chamber who work tirelessly, thank you so much. We are blessed to be in Queensland and Australia with all of you through this pandemic journey. To the family of the member for Stretton, Duncan Pegg, his many friends and beloved community: our thoughts are with you during this time. Peggy, as a committee chair and a wonderful MP, you are deeply missed and will continue to inspire from above as you did in this chamber and beyond.

To finish, ‘people before politics’ should always be our mantra as we stand in this people’s house. We are very much nearly there and all we need are some tweaks, more bipartisan agreements and being prepared at times to say when we have not quite got it right. Less politicking and positioning for elections versus long-term resolutions would be very welcomed by Queenslanders. More caring for each other—in all ways.

We need not fear moving away from the known and what no longer serves us well towards what does. May within the budget we have those many opportunities. There is nothing to lose and so much to gain in this 57th Parliament.