




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Liberal National Party, Performance

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (2.10 pm): What a low point it is when the Leader of the Opposition comes into this place twice today and tries to use the death of a child for political gain. It is disgusting.

Honourable members interjected.

Dr MILES: Even you are above that.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Deputy Premier, comments will come through the chair.

Dr MILES: Yes, Mr Deputy Speaker. Anyway, I rose today to speak about something the Leader of the Opposition and I actually agree on—that is, the fact that the LNP is unelectable in its current form and that the party is deeply broken. I am sure all members on both sides of the House will have followed with intrigue the series of articles by experienced journalist Peter Gleeson in the *Courier-Mail* exposing the truth of the LNP: the merger of the Liberal and National parties has failed. The telling point I think is that when we talk to Libs in the city they say, ‘Oh, the party was ruined when the Nats took over’ and when we talk to Nats in the bush they say, ‘The party was ruined when the Libs took over.’ The truth is that it was the Christians and Clive who took over!

We have learned of the deep, irreconcilable rifts between the executive and the parliamentary wing. We have heard how deep Clive’s power goes into the LNP. Why did its executive spend election night sipping champagne on Clive Palmer’s boat? You can never hope to get votes in Townsville when you act like that! They know that they take on Clive at their own peril, because who else will bankroll their negative election campaign?

An LNP source recently shared with me what some of their branch members were saying. He said—

After dissecting the abysmal results with business peers and friends, we all agreed that we witnessed the most disjointed, boring and uninspiring LNP campaign in the history of ... politics.

The messaging was incoherent and pointless and the bland policies some bonehead conjured had up no cut through with the electorate. No wonder you couldn’t sell them!

Watching this campaign was like watching a footy club raffle a meat tray, you know you’re not going to win but you support the club because it’s the right thing to do.

The member goes on to provide some constructive feedback.

Mr Stevens interjected.

Dr MILES: These are not my words, member for Mermaid Beach, but he said—

In all my years of involvement with the LNP party I have never met a more **unworthy** person to represent an electorate than you. I have done more for this community in 3 weeks than you have done in the past 10 years—

Mr Mander: Name the source.

Dr MILES: You have the email. The email continues—

Please take the sentiment of this next sentence with ... serious pause and thought, “can you please seriously consider how suited you think you are to represent the electorate of Mermaid Beach”?

I table a copy of this email.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 4 November 2020, titled 'LNP and its Culture of Failure' [287](#).

Members will note that it was copied to all members opposite, so they all have it and they all know the source.

He is not alone in his anger. Peter Gleeson says that the *Courier-Mail* received hundreds of emails and texts from former or current members of the LNP applauding him for blowing the whistle on division within the party. Even their mates are fed up. The producer of the *Alan Jones Breakfast Show* on Sky said—

Queenslanders are seeking an alternative government that is rid of dead wood and reflects modern-day Queensland, not one releasing half-baked policies like police rounding up children in Townsville, the political version of dog catchers, or talking about the Bradfield Scheme but only promising \$20 million for a feasibility study, or, the best of the bunch, the \$300 car registration rebate, not means-tested, costing over \$1 billion.

There is a pretty good summary of where it all went wrong. Let us be clear about what is going on here, because they are setting a test for the Leader of the Opposition. The party elders and former leaders such as the member for Surfers Paradise, the member for Clayfield, Lawrence Springborg and Rob Borbidge are creating space to see whether the new leader will take on the executive. They are giving him the opportunity. They have run the campaign. They have opened up the space. Now will he take it or will he chicken out? That is the test for the Leader of the Opposition. He has form in knocking off women for jobs that he wants. This time he has to take on the executive of the LNP. Let us see if he can.