




Speech By
Aaron Harper

MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA

Record of Proceedings, 26 May 2022

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Herbert Electorate

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.10 pm): I start by acknowledging and congratulating the Prime Minister of Australia, Mr Anthony Albanese. It is fantastic to have a Labor Prime Minister—the very man who launched my campaign in Thuringowa back in 2014.

Mr Saunders: He has good taste.

Mr HARPER: He is a good man. I am looking forward to working with him in Townsville. I acknowledge the member for Herbert on his re-election. I want to explain what that now looks like for Townsville, as he is relegated to the backbench of the opposition. It means that the state Labor members will be the pseudo federal members working with the Albanese federal government to deliver on every single commitment that John Ring made—\$148 million in commitments that mean more jobs for Townsville. That is more than what Mr Thompson has been able to achieve in three years.

Mr McCallum: You'll be doing Thompson's job all the time.

Mr HARPER: We will be doing Thompson's job. With the federal member re-elected, what does that mean for Townsville? It means more of the same—more of blaming the state, more of blaming local government, more of playing politics. I ask the federal member: how are you going to deliver those commitments you made to community clubs and to organisations in your late three-week run-up to the election? You have let the people of Townsville down again because none of those will be delivered, and we know it.

As the pseudo federal members for Townsville, we will make sure that the \$22 million for Lansdown is delivered. We will make sure that the \$32 million for the NQ Spark industry-leading program is delivered. We will make sure that the \$70 million for the hydrogen hub in Townsville is delivered. We will make sure that the \$4.5 million for The Oasis Townsville is delivered. We will make sure that the \$2.5 million for the arts precinct at TAFE Queensland is delivered. We have to do that because we now have a situation in Townsville where the federal member has been relegated to the backbench of the opposition.

Mr Saunders: He'll take all the credit.

Mr HARPER: No. He cannot deliver. He has already let down the people of Townsville with the Houghton pipeline project stage 2—\$195 million. It is going to be us who make sure that every single one of those commitments are delivered. I thank John Ring, the candidate for Labor, up there. He has delivered more in commitments, and we will make sure that we deliver every single one of them. They will mean hundreds of jobs—thousands of jobs with the Lansdown industrial precinct and particularly around the hydrogen hub in Townsville. I say to the people of Townsville: look to your Labor members. We will make sure that we deliver. We now have a federal member who is incapable of delivering anything for Townsville.