




Speech By
Ann Leahy

MEMBER FOR WARREGO

Record of Proceedings, 10 November 2022

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Member for Keppel, Performance

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.37 pm): There is no doubt that local government deserves to be treated better by this Palaszczuk Labor government. We have only to look at the community uncertainty and the waste of money and time caused by Labor's review of the Rockhampton and Livingstone council boundary to see that firsthand. From the very beginning, the LNP have maintained the position that the boundary realignments between local governments should not proceed unless both councils agree. Recently I received an email which sums up the boundary review between the Rockhampton and Livingstone councils. It states—

I personally appreciate what you have done to promote this issue of council's boundaries.

This was a farce to begin with.

I agree that this whole process was a waste of money for both councils and that it proceeded without a council resolution, was disgraceful.

All this could have been avoided if the member for Keppel had stood up for her constituents. It is obvious that the member for Keppel puts her interests and the interests of her Labor bosses ahead of her constituents. It was left to the Livingstone Shire Council Mayor, Andy Ireland, and his councillors to stand up against the proposed boundary review for the residents of Livingstone. In the middle of a full-blown cost-of-living crisis, the Palaszczuk government allowed a proposal to go forward to the Local Government Change Commission that would see Livingstone Shire Council rates increase by \$250 a year for residents.

If the member for Keppel had the courage to stand up for her constituents, the waste of money and time could have been avoided. While her constituents faced a massive hike in cost of living, she failed to voice the concerns of her residents. It is no wonder Rockhampton lost the Rockhampton Ring Road project that was due to commence in two months. Federal Labor knows it can walk over the members for Keppel and Rockhampton because they do not stand up to their Labor bosses. The Labor Prime Minister knows that they do not stand up for Central Queensland.

There is a recurring theme here with the member for Keppel: she does not stand up on cost-of-living increases from boundary reviews on residents; does not stand up for improved services at the Yeppoon Hospital—just try and get an X-ray there on the weekend—does not stand up for tackling youth crime; and is disappointed when she should be absolutely outraged by the loss of the Rockhampton Ring Road. The Labor Party has a poor track record. It is taking the constituents of Keppel and Rockhampton for granted. Only the LNP will stand up and be a voice for these Central Queensland businesses. Queenslanders and Central Queenslanders deserve better.