




Speech By
Bart Mellish

MEMBER FOR ASPLEY

Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2022

MOTION

Federal Morrison Government

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (5.18 pm): I support this motion. Next weekend Australians have a great opportunity to kick this bumbling, stumbling Morrison government out of office and put the missed opportunities of the last decade behind us. The last nine years have seen wages stagnate, climate change action grind to a halt, infrastructure money for Queensland pushed off again and again, and excuses piling up. This Abbott-Truss, Turnbull-Truss, Turnbull-Joyce, Turnbull-McCormack, Morrison-McCormack, Morrison-Joyce government has run out of puff. This government has spent the last decade being dragged kicking and screaming to every hard decision along the way. From net zero to same sex marriage to royal commissions into the banking sector, aged care and veteran suicides, this government only acts when it is forced to.

Australia has dragged this government along behind itself, not the other way around. The rot started early. Tony Abbott's first budget in 2014 still sends shivers up the spines of many Australians. It is no wonder it was roundly condemned—from funding cuts to the ABC to Peter Dutton's \$7 GP tax. This government got off on the wrong foot and they have not learnt from there. Then we had Malcolm Turnbull—the man who invented the internet but could not give us more than a Third World NBN.

I suppose Abbott and Turnbull stood for something which they will be remembered for—good or bad, but mostly bad—but Scott Morrison's time as Prime Minister will be remembered for his lethargy, not his ideology. He was too slow to act on the banking royal commission, too slow to order vaccines, too slow to pick up the phone to Pfizer, too slow to order RATs and too slow to call the election so we could be done of this sad and tired federal government.

They treat our local communities with contempt. In the part of the north side where I live, the candidate who the LNP are putting up—and, most importantly, are still actively endorsing and supporting—has been referred to the AFP for what looks like a pretty clear case of alleged electoral fraud. When asked about it yesterday, the Prime Minister said, 'I would say that has nothing to do with me.' That is classic Scott Morrison—absolute classic. His corflutes are still up, his volunteers are still handing out for him and he still wants to represent our area. What a disgrace.

It is never Scott Morrison's job; it is never his fault. This is the fourth candidate we have had there in three years. Three of their candidates have not even made it to a polling booth to be able to hand out their own how-to-vote flyers. There is something seriously crook with the LNP party machine in Queensland, and specifically in north Brisbane. This is what they keep serving up to our community. It is classic Scott Morrison to wash his hands of this, with zero taking of responsibility. Disaster responses are not his job, and he only ever considers flooding to be serious when it starts raining on Sydney Harbour. Queensland flood victims will not forget that he values them a third as much as he does flood victims in New South Wales. This federal government needs to go, and there is a great chance to do so next Saturday.