



Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 29 March 2022

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Boyce, Mr C

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (2.11 pm): What an extraordinary spectacle we saw in this House just a few hours ago: an extraordinary demonstration of the complete irrelevance of the Leader of the Opposition. There was the member for Callide; he got up, he put in his resignation and he stormed out of the chamber all in one go. It was obvious—completely obvious—that the Leader of the Opposition and the leadership team knew absolutely nothing about it. That is the esteem in which the Leader of the Opposition is held by the member for Callide. There was not one word of acknowledgement by the member for Callide—not one word of recognition even—that the Leader of the Opposition existed.

The former member for Callide is off to share some of his progressive world views with the likes of Senator Matt Canavan and Senator Gerard Rennick, opposing renewable energy projects and spouting his climate change denial. The former member for Callide did not just deny climate change; he actually welcomed it. The former member for Callide was the one who said in this House, 'We should celebrate, not fear, the modern warm era.' Colin Boyce has his work cut out for him in Flynn up against the hardworking, heavy industry supporting Matt Burnett. In the unfortunate event that he succeeds, he will end up where he started: on the opposition benches.

It reminds me of the member for Moggill, who unceremoniously had Bruce Flegg deposed in the hope of becoming a minister in the Newman government and has spent every one of his seven years in this House in opposition—226 sitting days. That allowed him to indulge in one of his great passions: the death penalty. I will at least give Colin Boyce his due. Colin Boyce was a crank, but at least he never pretended to be anything else. Colin Boyce was a member of the LNP who gave comfort to those who deny science and spout conspiracy theories, but he did so from the backbench. Compare that to the shadow minister for health, the member for Mudgeeraba, who does the same thing while sitting on the front bench.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr Boothman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Mudgeeraba! Order, member for Theodore!

Mr DICK: The member for Mudgeeraba does so because the current Leader of the Opposition cannot or will not do anything about her ongoing membership of the nurses so-called professional association of Queensland. The person who would be the health minister under an LNP government pays membership dues to an organisation that is openly associated with anti-vaccination.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Treasurer, resume your seat. Leader of the Opposition, you are on a warning.

Mr DICK: For all of the current Leader of the Opposition's talk on this issue—an issue he should be able to control—

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Resume your seat. Member for Chatsworth, you can join your leader on a warning. I had just called the House to order, I had warned a member and you immediately interjected.

Mr DICK: The options are clear for the Leader of the Opposition: compel the member for Mudgeeraba to abandon and disavow NPAQ, a fake union, or back the calls for NPAQ and their dangerous far-right theories peddled out of Bowen Hills to be shut down. If the member for Mudgeeraba will not abandon the conspiracy theorists in the hard right, then the current Leader of the Opposition should exercise his power to remove her from the front bench. I hazard a guess the Leader of the Opposition will not do it because the Leader of the Opposition cannot do it—

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Mudgeeraba, you can join them on a warning.

Mr DICK:—because the power no doubt lies in the back room of the LNP and the Leader of the Opposition does not have a key to the back room.

Today we saw all the confected outrage over integrity replaced by confected outrage over health. They have given up on their strategy. It turns out the LNP's integrity inferno has all the substance of the LNP's Bruce Highway duplication hoax and the fake Bradfield scheme. No wonder the member for Callide is leaving. Even he can see this LNP under the current leader is an ineffective political opposition, and everyone in the National Party in the LNP knows it. They cannot prosecute a line of argument, they cannot stick to a tactic, they cannot execute a strategy. The Leader of the Opposition is all over the shop. I say this: Queenslanders deserve better.

Tomorrow the Leader of the Opposition has a chance to finally show Queenslanders that he is on their side. When Scott Morrison fails to invest in Queensland, which we all know he will, then the Leader of the Opposition can take a stand. He can put aside the confected outrage about health and about the integrity inferno and he can call out Scott Morrison for his failure on Queensland. That is his history. That is Scott Morrison's history and it is the failure of the Leader of the Opposition to do anything or say anything or act in any way to support this. If he does not do that, then the member for Broadwater will remain the enfeebled, diminished leader of an organisation that has zero relevance to Queensland.