




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2022

MOTION

Federal Morrison Government

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (5.24 pm): I stand to speak in favour of the motion. I want to start off with this observation. Yes, it is true that we have not been in opposition. I have to say that we are blessed to have an opposition of the quality of the LNP over there. We are blessed to have them as our opponents. I thank the political powers every day for having them on the other side.

Have there been any successes for the federal LNP? Let us try to be generous. Have they had any successes? Let us look at the areas of their traditional strengths. Let us look at what they have done in the economy. This is the same crew that doubled the national debt before we actually had COVID. They taxed more, borrowed more and spent more than the previous Labor government and achieved much less. This is a mob who have prided themselves on keeping wages down as an economic lever. That is absolutely disgraceful. At a time when ordinary Australians need that pay rise, they still pride themselves on their ability to keep wages down.

Let us look at another area of their traditional strengths. What have they delivered in the area of national defence? That is a woeful failure as well. They have taken their eye off the ball, and what happened? 'Look, someone sold off the Darwin port to the Chinese. How did that happen?' What else have they done? They took their eye off the ball when it came to the Solomon Islands. They were warned in August last year that something was afoot, but their reaction was, 'No. Nothing to see here.' They failed on that one as well. Might I say too that they wasted over \$5 billion on submarines that we will not see for a long time. In terms of failure, that is a pretty big one.

Mr McCallum interjected.

Mr WHITING: Sacrebleu, indeed. I promise not to go into French again this week. One of the things we also have to look at is what they have done in aged care. There is a reason why aged-care workers went on strike yesterday; it is because their wages are not up to par. The federal LNP have been silent on what the Productivity Commission has recommended to make the aged-care industry healthy again. Their failure on aged care means we have had 500 people in our hospitals who should have been in aged care. That includes 108 people in the Metro North area. They really are a failure. That should be in the dictionary—LNP equals failure.