




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 26 May 2022

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Callide Electorate, By-Election

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): The Labor Party has absolutely given up on the bush. Despite the Premier saying that the Queensland Labor Party is all about the bush, I think the federal election result on the weekend shows otherwise. People have abandoned the Labor Party. They have abandoned the Labor Party in the city for the Greens and they have rightly abandoned the Labor Party in rural and regional Queensland—and so they should. Labor have a terrible track record in the bush.

We have the Callide by-election coming up. We are hearing the Labor Party are not even running a candidate in the Callide by-election. Imagine being a life member of the Labor Party who lives in Callide and not having a candidate who shares your values in this by-election. Shame on the Labor Party. Premier Palaszczuk has given up on the bush. She has given up on you. She has no respect for the bush. They cannot say, as the Premier does, that they represent the bush if they cannot even be bothered to stand a candidate in the bush. This side of the House—the LNP—love the bush. That is why we have selected Bryson Head as our candidate for Callide. He will be a great local member.

The Labor Party are running away from their record in the bush. They are so embarrassed. They are running away from their record on health. They are running away from their record on roads. They are running away from their record on agriculture and the resource industry. They are running away because they are embarrassed by their record—a record which includes maintenance backlogs in Central Queensland of \$1 billion alone. Over \$3 billion in Bailey budget blow-outs means that worthy road projects across rural and regional Queensland are delayed or cut.

In health, regional Queensland lacks access to basic services like CT scanners and birthing services. There are harrowing stories of women in the bush giving birth to babies on the side of the road because the Labor Party have closed maternity services in rural and regional Queensland. That is why they are running away from their record. They should be embarrassed by their record in the bush.

Is that why they are not running a candidate in Callide or can they not find a Labor comrade to run for them because of their bad record? We on this side of the House have Bryson Head. He will be a fantastic member. He will serve the community well. He is a local boy from the bush. He grew up on a farm north of Brigalow and lives in Chinchilla. He is standing to protect the agriculture, mining and trade jobs that are under threat from Labor Party policies. I say to the people of Callide: vote 1 Bryson Head—LNP.