




Speech By
Hon. Meaghan Scanlon

MEMBER FOR GAVEN

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Federal Labor Government

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (2.21 pm): I want to remark on some of the hypocritical comments made by the Leader of the Opposition, particularly in relation to health care. The member for Broadwater is a Gold Coast member of parliament who went to the last election refusing to match Labor's commitment for a satellite hospital, for a 40-bed mental health rehabilitation unit or for a hybrid theatre. The then leader of the opposition, the member for Nanango, spent days refusing to rule out cuts to healthcare workers through attrition numbers. What did they do in more recent times? In the most recent federal election, did they call on their federal colleagues to match federal Labor's commitment to an urgent care clinic on the Gold Coast? No. It is pathetic.

I want to turn to the results of Saturday, where millions of young Australians rejected the divisive politics of the LNP. They voted for a better future. They rejected an LNP government that denied climate change and incited culture wars, that cut climate funding in its last budget, that vetoed renewable energy projects and that was dragged to the table of net zero. They rejected an LNP government whose policy—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member for Kawana, you are warned.

Ms SCANLON: They rejected an LNP government whose policy it was to keep wages low. In fact, they gloated about it being a deliberate feature of their economic architecture. What did the acting youth affairs minister, Stuart Robert, do? He got on TV and said that the lowest income earners—many of whom are young people—did not deserve a dollar an hour pay rise. This is a man who was billing the Australian taxpayer \$1,000 a month for his own home internet bill. I do not even know how you rack up a bill that high. Young people rejected this LNP government which told renters that the solution to skyrocketing house prices was to just go and buy a house.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Broadwater.

Ms SCANLON: The LNP government then announced it would just bulldoze the superannuation of young Australians, which they admitted themselves would actually jack up house prices. Is any of this a surprise when they abolished the office of youth affairs?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bonney and member for Broadwater, you are both warned.

Ms SCANLON: Instead, Australians voted for an Albanese Labor government which will build more affordable housing, together with Queensland's \$2.1 billion investment around housing. The Albanese government will bring back an office for youth. This is a government that promotes women

and has affirmative action targets. It is pretty clear from the most recent results on the weekend that young women in particular rejected the LNP government that perpetuated a toxic culture and workplace and that failed to deliver the 55 recommendations of Respect@Work. What can we expect from a party whose senior minister Peter Dutton accidentally sent a message to journalist Samantha Maiden calling her a 'mad-expetive-witch' and insulting her for writing a story about alleged inappropriate conduct by one of his former colleagues?

What is the LNP's response to their problem with women? To preselect Henry Pike, the new member for Bowman, who fat shamed and degraded women on social media. At a state level we know what those opposite think. The member for Everton criticised our government for having too many women on the Parole Board. The member for Broadwater said he wants more female representation in the LNP, but he actually turfed out the youngest member of the Queensland LNP and the youngest woman to enter Queensland parliament.

The LNP now return to Canberra with 17 fewer seats. It should be a wake-up call that young Australians will not tolerate the divisive politics of the LNP. Despite that, senior figures are now jostling over whether they will progress the party further towards the far right. The same man who said that what happened to Brittany Higgins was 'he said, she said' and that rape victims in Nauru were trying it on is now being slated for the top job. The party is positioning itself towards hatred, towards climate denial, towards politics focused on a few and not many.

So it begs the question: what does the opposition leader and those opposite stand for? Is it with the so-called progressives like the member for Bonney? They are all on the same team ultimately as people like Peter Dutton, Matt Canavan, Gerard Rennick, Keith Pitt and Colin Boyce. While the Palaszczuk government and Queenslanders called for a fair share from Canberra, for climate action and for a federal government that actually cares and delivers things like the National Disability Insurance Scheme and aged-care reform, those opposite cowered in the corner and were silent.

The opposition leader, the member for Broadwater, owes it to Queenslanders, especially the young people who rejected the politics of the LNP, to put their position on the record. Do they stand by the comments over the past decade about women made by those on his team? Do they stand for the climate denialism of the LNP, when Australians have made it clear that they want action? Does he stand by a culture of homophobia, transphobia and discrimination? At the end of the day, they might be different faces but they are all part of the same political party.