




Speech By
Robbie Katter

MEMBER FOR TRAEGER

Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2022

MOTION

Women in Sport

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (4.59 pm): I move—

That this House supports women's rights by agreeing that:

1. allowing biological men to play in female sport will erode the integrity of female sport;
2. anyone who supports biological men playing in female sport, irrespective of age group, level or code, is complicit in eroding the integrity of female sport and therefore women's rights;
3. based on their insurmountable physical advantages, biological males participating in female sport pose an unfair competitive advantage against and/or safety risk towards female athletes.

My colleague and I were well aware that this issue attracts a lot of ire and a lot of anger, as people would have observed this morning when I gave notice of this motion. I try to approach this subject with the utmost respect for the other side of the argument and try to be tolerant of other people's views. It is curious to me that I am not always afforded that same level of tolerance. People invoke the words 'bigot' and 'hate speech'. I am not sure what that means in relation to me. This motion is nothing against anyone who falls into that category of transgender. God loves them all and welcomes them all and they are welcome to have a good fitting place in society. However, there are some very real truths that impact practically and materially in terms of how we interact in sports. That is something we want to raise. I can pre-empt that everyone is going to attack us by asking, 'Why are you bringing this up? There are a lot more important things out there.' Are there? It is an important subject to bring up.

In the context of the election, there are social issues on which we need to put a stake in the ground. If people dislike those views that is fine, but it is important to know where people stand. Unashamedly we will take a position on this, because it seems to be a current issue that has arisen with some recent events, as with the swimmer in the States and some comments made by elite athletes.

One of the first questions to ask from our point of view is: what is a woman? It is a valid question to ask when talking about competitive sport. Are women important in that role? I will expand on that. How do we then protect their rights?

When people are born biologically male and then want to participate in women's sport through whatever means, whether it is through hormone therapy or surgical changes, there is unquestionably a distinct advantage. There are reams of data to support that. I did not have to go far to find evidence of the advantage males have in sport. Olympic records are probably the most obvious. Every time this subject pops up we can point to countless examples where there is a distinct advantage. Lia Thomas, a swimmer in the States, was recently highly successful when competing in the women's events yet when participating as a male had not had the same level of success.

This is important for parents. I am a parent of some young girls who will be hopefully participating in sport one day. I love playing Rugby League. They might want to play some Rugby League as well. Imagining them at 15 or 17 years of age, post puberty, competing against the odd person who might

want to transfer to being a female does not sit well with me. It does not sit well with a lot of people. That is not to deny that person the opportunity to play sport—they are welcome to play sport and they should enjoy a great life in sport—but there is a distinct advantage when they cross over.

This raises all sorts of questions. If we have women's sport and men's sport and people are allowed to cross over, back and forth, depending on how they feel, then we should make sports unisex now and draw it to its logical conclusion. There seems to be too much grey area.

There was certainly some grey area when Fallon Fox, the boxer who went into MMA, fought a lady by the name of Tamikka Brents—a proud, flag-waving lesbian and a good fighter in her own right. She was pilloried by the transgender movement at the time. She was beaten and hospitalised by Fallon Fox and said, 'I have never been hit like that before in my life'—and that is because she had never fought in the men's category before. That triggered some discussions about who we allow into fighting—

(Time expired)