




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 15 March 2022

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Queensland Floods; Liberal National Party, Performance

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (2.10 pm): Queenslanders have just been through the worst natural disaster in more than 10 years. People across South-East Queensland are picking up the pieces, volunteering in the gruelling clean-up or, worst of all, mourning loved ones lost in these devastating floods. The Palaszczuk government spent the last weeks visiting and supporting the hardest hit communities, and we have seen firsthand the devastation. We will work with every individual community to address their specific issues and build on their resilience in case something like this ever happens again. That is what Queenslanders care about. They care about getting their families back in their homes. They care about putting their communities back together. They care about getting their lives back.

What are those opposite doing for them? They are doing what they always do. They are talking about themselves, playing politics and navel-gazing. After seven years in the wilderness it is back to the future again. Just over a year into the Crisafulli era, which he said would be positive and above petty politics, they have replaced one of the few shadows who was not in the Newman government with one who is synonymous with the Newman government.

The member for Kawana was not just a senior member of that government—he did not just oversee the debacle when it comes to the handling of the justice system and judicial appointments; he has, since 2015, continued the same childish, arrogant approach that people remember Newman for in his management of this place. He might have assured the party room that he has grown up, but he showed us all this morning that he has not. In promoting two former Newman ministers, the Leader of the Opposition demoted one of the few women in his team. Who can forget the fanfare when he appointed the member for Maroochydore the shadow minister for integrity. Today he dumped her seven spots. It seems the only thing that could trump his supposed concern for integrity is his misogyny.

I am ever the optimist. I came in here today thinking with another new look team—they look a lot like the last ones—something would change. How disappointing it was. An hour of question time and there was not a single question about the No. 1 concern of Queenslanders right now—not a single question about the floods or flood recovery. That is what we came here to talk about. The only non-government question about the floods came from the Greens.

Opposition members interjected.

Dr MILES: We would think that even if those interjecting and the strategy group do not care about the floods they could have at least given their MPs whose communities have been affected a go. Nowhere has been hit harder by this disaster than Gympie—not once but twice. They did not let the poor member for Gympie ask a question. The same goes for the member for Lockyer and even the member for Moggill. For all their talk about being positive and talking about the things Queenslanders care about, nothing has changed.

It is probably lucky for them because when the member for Broadwater does talk about the flood recovery he makes a right fool of himself. He claimed to be the only minister to have implemented a betterment fund. He boasted about the \$35 million he had in it. I am surprised he did not know that we have had betterment funds after every disaster since 2011. All he had to do was google it or ask his colleagues.

The member for Burdekin could have talked about the \$3 million we invested to widen and seal May Downs Carfax Road to increase resilience there. The member for Scenic Rim would have said Jerome Bridge on Upper Coomera Road and Bennett Bridge on Illinbah Road were both built back better thanks to the \$1.8 million also invested in 2017. If he had any mates left in Townsville they could have told him that the council got \$13 million to seal and upgrade a stretch of Mill Road to allow communities there to stay connected during future weather events.

The Leader of the Opposition should apologise for lying about the QRA's betterment work. Queenslanders deserve all of our focused support right now, but those opposite show time and again that they only care about themselves.

(Time expired)