



Speech By
Aaron Harper

MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA

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MOTION: CAIRNS, TOWNSVILLE AND REDLANDS ELECTORATES

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (5.15 pm): I will enjoy the next five minutes, quite seriously. I do not know what is worse: getting hit with a wet lettuce leaf by the member for Whitsunday or a kerchief by the member for Kawana. Listening to their contributions was like getting hit with a feather! This debate is called ‘the scream’. They should bring something to the game—anything! I will tell members why the people of Thuringowa back me in—

Ms CAMM: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe that the member just called me a wet lettuce. I take personal offence and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): The member has taken personal offence. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr HARPER: I withdraw. The good people of Thuringowa backed me in in 2015, 2017 and 2020 because I deliver for Thuringowa, unlike former LNP member Sam Cox—the good mate of the Leader of the Opposition—who wanted to sell off the port to deliver Riverway Drive. Where he did he go? The Katters? One Nation? Where is Sam now?

A government member interjected.

Mr HARPER: I will get to the Leader of the Opposition and I will do him slowly. Let us look at the record of those opposite. On crime, the LNP failed. With their breach of bail, every single one of them reoffended. It did not have teeth. They failed with their boot camp, but they did take a donation from Lincoln Springs, didn't they, ‘Mr Helicopter Man’? Was it because he could not drive all the way to Lincoln Springs or because he had to bring back the donations?

An opposition member: Why don't you stick to your written notes?

Mr HARPER: That's my scribble.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. To accuse one of corruption and secretly taking money is highly offensive. I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! Member, I ask you to withdraw. You have also used incorrect titles. I ask you to refrain from using incorrect titles. All members will be addressed by their proper parliamentary titles. I ask you to withdraw before you continue.

Mr HARPER: I withdraw. The member for Kawana knows exactly the failures of the boot camp. Those opposite know that during their term the LNP sacked police. They cut programs. They cut funding to Project Booyah. Conversely, we have restored funding for a range of programs such as Clontarf, Stars and Silver Lining. We also just got funding for Street University and we have brought back the stronger laws that were needed.

We brought back breach of bail that had teeth, and it will have an effect. I refer to the Leader of the Opposition. The opposition front bench reminds me of the *Wizard of Oz*. I am not sure if he is the Tin Man—no soul, no heart, no ticker—because he will not get up and apologise—

Mr POWELL: I rise to a point of order—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member, I asked you to use correct titles. What is your point of order?

Mr POWELL: Mr Deputy Speaker, I was going to draw attention to the fact that the member continues to not direct his comments through the chair.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Manager of Opposition Business. Member, I would ask you to use correct titles. If you continue to use non-parliamentary titles, I will sit you down.

Mr HARPER: I take your guidance and apologise, Mr Deputy Speaker. The hypocrisy of the member for Broadwater, the Leader of the Opposition, is breathtakingly amazing when he can stand with three women candidates and purport to stand for women and at the same time make awful remarks about my friend the member for Redlands. The member has form. We heard today, and it is in *Hansard*, the member for Broadwater has made the same disparaging remarks about my friend the member for Mackay. The member has form.

The member for Broadwater should man up and apologise to the member for Redlands for those disparaging remarks, but I do not think he can because he does not seem to have the ticker. He does not have a heart. He does not have a soul. He wants to attack women. That is a true representation of the man who cut and run from Mundingburra. The former member for Mundingburra cut and run to take out the then sitting member in Broadwater. The former female member, Verity Barton, was a good young lady. I cannot believe the member can sit there and try to defend his disparaging remarks. They were unparliamentary. The member should man up. Everyone can see that the Leader of the Opposition—

Mr MANDER: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. The member continues to use sexist language. He should be using the saying 'person up' and not 'man up'.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I will take some advice.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Lytton, I had called the House to order and you continued to interject. You can go on a warning. I will take the advice in silence. The language used is not unparliamentary. There is no point of order.

Mr HARPER: I take the interjection from the member for Everton who said there should not be women on boards. The hypocrisy is breathtaking. I say to all members opposite that the people of Thuringowa know that I will continue to deliver. They know that I have delivered hundreds of millions of dollars in infrastructure and I will keep going.