




Speech By
Brittany Lauga

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

Record of Proceedings, 25 May 2023

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Leader of the Opposition, Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road Upgrade

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.52 pm): It was a shame that last night the LNP did not consider my contribution to the debate as relevant. The Manager of Opposition Business rose multiple times to stop me talking about crime in my electorate, so today I am calling on the Leader of the Opposition to man up and apologise for telling mistruths about me on not one but now two occasions. First the Leader of the Opposition said that I was making up stories for Facebook about the LNP's attempts to halt our \$80 million Yeppoon-Rockhampton road upgrade, but he did not even know his shadow minister for local government had written a letter to the minister wanting the engineering design for this critical road upgrade, which I have personally fought for, scrapped. When asked about it this morning by ABC Radio, the LNP replied and said that it is all a non-event. Then just last week the Leader of the Opposition sent out a—

Ms LEAHY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence to the statement made by the member and ask that she withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): I will take some advice. I did not hear the member for Keppel reference you yourself, member, which is required for you to take personal offence. Were you referenced?

Ms LEAHY: She referenced a letter that I wrote, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not the same as taking personal offence to something in the House.

Mr HART: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. At the start of the member's speech she said that it was a shame the LNP did not find her comments appropriate to the debate, but it was actually the Acting Speaker who found that and sat her down. I think the member's comments are a reflection on the chair and I ask you to rule on that.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a point of order.

Ms LAUGA: The shadow minister for local government wrote a letter to the Minister for Main Roads trying to halt this project and now seemingly finds it offensive that she wrote a letter. Just last week the Leader of the Opposition sent out a press release—and I table a copy of the statement—to Central Queensland media outlets accusing me of not using the word 'crime' once during parliament in Cairns two weeks ago.

Tabled paper: Media release, undated, titled 'Parliament records expose central Queensland MPs: Central Queensland Labor MPs went silent on crime during Regional Parliament' [716](#).

I am pleased to rise today and correct the record, because clearly the Leader of the Opposition and his media unit do not know how to check the record. They do not even know how to read *Hansard*. The LNP clearly does not even know how to read *Hansard* because in parliament in Cairns I spoke

about crime, prisons, community safety, correctional officers, rehabilitation and punishment, and I table a copy of my speech for the information of the House.

Tabled paper: Extract, dated 11 May 2023, from the *Record of Proceedings*, Queensland Parliament, of a speech by the member for Keppel, Ms Brittany Lauga MP [717](#).

The Leader of the Opposition has been in this place for a while now. He should know how to check *Hansard*. It is a pretty basic thing to do. If he does not even know how to search and read *Hansard*, then I am genuinely concerned for the opposition. I mean, imagine if Pat Cummins—

Mr Ryan: They've got dozens of staff.

Ms LAUGA: They do have dozens of staff. Imagine if Pat Cummins did not know how to read a team sheet. Imagine if Peter Dutton did not know where Yeppoon was. Oh, hang on: that actually did happen! My mistake.

In all seriousness, the Leader of the Opposition needs to apologise for these false allegations and seek some mentoring and support from the Parliamentary Service to assist him in *Hansard* comprehension. Some 40 per cent of the LNP's shadow cabinet were ministers in the Newman government. The Leader of the Opposition was himself a minister in the Newman government. I would have thought that he would have learnt how to check *Hansard* back when he was a minister. We know just how bad those opposite were in government. They oversaw failed youth justice boot camps, they made cuts to youth justice conferencing, they orchestrated the sacking of the CMC in the middle of the night and they attacked the judiciary. We are cracking down on serious recidivist offenders and we are investing significantly in early intervention programs that we know work, and that is why the Palaszczuk government is investing more than \$100 million in additional funding.