




Speech By
Cynthia Lui

MEMBER FOR COOK

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Cook Electorate, Representation

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.21 pm): It is an honour and a privilege to represent the Cook electorate in this parliament, a position that I take very seriously. It is a privilege bestowed upon me by the good people of Cook. I have made a firm commitment to always stand on the side of my communities and to always advocate in their best interests. I have a very vast and complex electorate that can be very challenging at the best of times. My electorate comprises 14 local councils, all of which I am very proud to work in close partnership with. The relationship I have with all 14 local councils is very important, especially in trying to work through some very complex challenges.

I want to give a shout-out to all of the mayors in the 14 councils from the Torres Strait to Cape York and the Douglas and Mareeba shires for doing an incredible job representing their respective communities. I understand that often times my councils will face challenges requiring some tough decisions. I will always respect their decisions if it means the community fully benefits from them. Again I say that the relationship I have with my councils is a partnership. I do not tell them what to do. I work with them to find the best solutions for the communities we all represent, from both a local and a state perspective. Unfortunately I cannot say the same for the federal representative, the member for Leichhardt, Warren Entsch.

Given the effort I put in to maintaining relationships with all of the mayors in Cook, recently I was very disappointed with the action the federal member for Leichhardt took to discredit one of the councils in my electorate. Recently, the member for Leichhardt came out in the media slamming the mayor and CEO of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council and publicly calling for their resignation over a council decision—a decision that has nothing to do with the member for Leichhardt. Rather than sitting down with all parties involved to try to find ways to work towards a solution, Warren Entsch decided to use this local issue as a cheap political stunt to gain brownie points.

I ask the member for Leichhardt: in the past two decades, what have you done to serve the Torres Strait as a federal member of parliament? The Torres Strait Island Regional Council has been dealing with long-standing marine infrastructure issues. This year the Palaszczuk and Albanese governments announced joint funding for marine infrastructure. The cost of living has been an issue across Queensland. The Palaszczuk government announced over \$60 million to deliver a freight subsidy for the Torres Strait, the cape and the gulf. Housing is an ongoing issue. What is the member for Leichhardt doing? The member for Leichhardt supported cutting the NPARIH program, which will deliver housing in my community. I say to Warren Entsch: this is not good enough and you need to do more.