



Speech By  
**Hon. Di Farmer**


**MEMBER FOR BULIMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 18 April 2023

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Liberal National Party, Women; Voice to Parliament**

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (2.42 pm): It is always an interesting experience to listen to LNP members' speeches while waiting to give your own speech. I feel quite incredulous at some of the perceptions they have of themselves. I was fascinated to see the member for Whitsunday taking the high moral ground when it comes to political parties supporting women. You have to admire the women in the LNP. It must be pretty tough being in that party if you are a woman. There are literally six of them. When there are six women in the whole party, they cannot take the high moral ground when it comes to women.

The biggest prize always goes to the opposition leader. We heard him speak before about 'everywhere he goes all around Queensland'. I have only noticed him in marginal seats—in their marginal seats or ours. I do not think he cares about the rest of Queensland. He is always talking about how he worries about the things people worry about and how he knows they are so stressed because he has been talking to them. In my experience as a member for parliament, what people really want to hear from politicians is that we have a plan and a policy, that if they have a problem we have a plan to fix it. They want to know where we stand on things and that we have a heart. Earlier the Leader of the Opposition was talking about small business. I do not think he has mentioned small business in any budget reply speech. They certainly have never taken a small business policy to the election.

Those opposite carry on about youth justice. The youth justice minister could have talked for 20 minutes this morning about the list of policies we have. I have only ever heard them say one thing about their plan for youth justice—one single thing. They talk about how much people are worried about youth crime, but they have one thing and they have been saying the same thing over and over again. I have not heard them talk once about their plans for housing. I have heard them attack. I have not heard them talk once about one of the fundamental issues affecting us, and that is housing. They do not have a plan or a policy.

The big question we are all thinking about at the moment is the Voice to Parliament. People need to know where we stand on things; they need to know that we have a heart. This government is absolutely clear that we stand with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and say that they should have a voice on the things that affect them. We know where Peter Dutton stands on this issue. This is the man who walked out in the middle of Kevin Rudd's apology to the stolen generation, to people who had been forcibly taken from their homes as children. Who does that? He has come out and said that they are not going to be supporting Voice. We know that the National Party is not going to be supporting Voice. I do not agree with them, but we are clear on where they stand.

When it comes to those opposite, it is still not clear. We do not know what the LNP in Queensland will do about Voice. The real truth is that the LNP has internal factions. We know that they have fights about targets for women. We know that some of them want to have targets for women and some do

not. The opposition leader does not want to upset everybody. He has people who do not want to support Voice and others who do. I will tell members what it looks like in the LNP to stand up for what you believe in and to have a heart. It is people like Ken Wyatt, who was the minister, and Julian Leeser, who was the shadow minister, who have walked away publicly and relinquished their positions. It is people like Pat Farmer, a former federal Liberal MP, who is walking around Australia. They are Liberals with heart.

I do not know if the member for Surfers Paradise has read the Uluru Statement from the Heart yet, but I will never forget the moment last year when he said, 'How should I know how to vote on this when I have not even read it yet?' It is 493 words long. How will the members for Clayfield and Moggill tell their inner-city voters what they are going to do on Voice?

**Dr Rowan** interjected.

**Ms FARMER:** He might pretend that he is not worried, but he is on one per cent. He is so worried. The member for Moggill is absolutely terrified. What will the member for Bonney, who is supposed to be the voice of social conscience, say to his constituents? Those opposite are absolutely terrified. Then there are the ones on the right side, who are edging behind, saying, 'Buddy, you had better not go out and support Voice.' At some time in the immediate future Queenslanders will want to know where those opposite stand. Is it 'yes' or is it 'no' for First Nations people?