



Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2023

MOTION

Far North Queensland, Service Delivery

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (3.30 pm): I move—

That this House notes the failure of local Far North Queensland Labor MPs to listen to their communities, overseeing a deterioration of service delivery in the Far North.

Essentially, this motion is a condemnation of the Labor MPs in Far North Queensland condemning them for their lack of action in Far North Queensland, not standing up for the people of Far North Queensland and not putting their interests first. We have seen crime increase in Far North Queensland. In contrast, the opposition leader and other members of our team have been meeting with victims of crime. We have been listening to the people of Far North Queensland. On behalf of the honourable Leader of the Opposition, I thank the wonderful people of Far North Queensland who have sought us out over the week to talk to us about the issues that are impacting their lives.

There is none more so than the youth crime crisis. We need consequences for actions, get rid of detention as a last resort, and of course the gold standard: early intervention. That is what the people of Far North Queensland are talking to us about. I was amazed at how many people stopped our members on the street and the anger towards the Labor Party MPs in Far North Queensland. The anger towards Premier Palaszczuk and Minister Mark Bailey was incredible. The only time I can recall seeing this sort of anger towards a government was in the dying days of the Bligh Labor government.

This morning the Premier was asked a question about a boat ramp by the member for Hill. She was legitimately surprised because I do not think she knows what a boat ramp is. The reason she would not know what a boat ramp is because the superyachts she goes on do not use boat ramps: they have wide channels. The superyachts that she likes to go to the red carpets on do not use boat ramps: that is why the Premier was a bit concerned about boat ramps. She has never been on a boat ramp because her big superyachts cannot get up a boat ramp.

The Premier also said that she is going to go to London herself and bring back artefacts to Queensland. Has she written to the museum and asked them to send them back? Has she sent them an express post bag? There is an email address, info @ britishmuseum.org. Maybe the Premier can save herself a trip and just ask for the artefacts back. Has she done that?

Talking about the member for Cairns, I read a big announcement in today's *Cairns Post* 'Hope for flights—Cairns MP on a mission'. This mission is a valedictory tour for the member for Cairns. They are sending him overseas on his valedictory tour because it is the worst kept secret in Cairns that the member for Cairns is running for mayor. He is abandoning the people of Cairns and he is running for mayor. It is the worst kept secret, but the people of Cairns keep telling us. Can you imagine this guy, the member for Cairns, rocking up to Hong Kong? He is leading the delegation. The people of Hong Kong will look around and say, 'Who's that chap?' They would have no idea who this guy is—just like the people of Cairns who want to get rid of him.

But there is hope. It is not hope for flights, as the *Cairns Post* reports; it is hope for a better future for the Far North Queensland region because we will have great candidates. We have one in Cairns—Yolonde Entsch has already been announced. The member for Cairns would be shivering in his seat, but he does not care because he is not going to be here because he is running for mayor. It is disgusting and disgraceful, the campaign that Labor Party members are running against Yolonde Entsch because of whom she is married to. She is there on her own efforts. She is not there—

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I just want to take some advice. Member for Kawana, I ask you to come back to the substance of your motion. I gave you some latitude there while exploring an alternative candidate, but I think you are now moving into areas that are well away from the substance of your motion. I would ask you to come back to your motion.

Mr BLEIJIE: In noting the failure of the Far North Queensland Labor Party MPs I am talking about a brighter future for the people of Cairns and Far North Queensland, and that brighter future and alternative rests with Yolonde Entsch, who is a fantastic candidate and former Cairns Citizen of the Year. She has lived in Cairns for 20 years. She is a mother, a humanitarian and a small business owner. She will make a fantastic representative for the people of Cairns at the next state election. The people of Cairns want change. The people of Queensland want change. They want to get rid of this bad Labor government, and Yolonde Entsch is the future for the people of Cairns.