




Speech By
Julianne Gilbert

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

Record of Proceedings, 29 March 2023

MOTION: CAIRNS, TOWNSVILLE AND REDLANDS ELECTORATES

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (5.48 pm): Those opposite have a vision for Queensland and it is to only cut, sack and sell again—the same vision they had last time. They have set a low bar, and then they keep setting it lower and lower again, and that is why I am supporting the amended motion. The Palaszczuk government respects frontline workers. We hire them. We are building new hospitals. We are investing in police. We are supporting Queenslanders with our community safety measures. We back Queenslanders with our \$6.8 billion of concessions that will deliver real hip-pocket relief. On this side of the House, we are delivering frontline services and infrastructure. It is not just by coincidence that Mackay has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the state.

The Palaszczuk government is delivering for families in my region. Under the LNP, it had one of the highest unemployment rates in the state. It was only a couple of weeks ago that I got to welcome 19 new police recruits into my region. There is also a swag of new interns and graduating nurses that have started work in our local hospitals. Our tradies are busy building the state-of-the-art Sarina Hospital and staff accommodation; it is on the way to being completed. I have met some really great young apprentices working on this build. Planning is underway for the \$250 million expansion of the Mackay Hospital to deliver another 128 extra beds. There are also tenders out for the brand new Moranbah Hospital, the helipad and staff accommodation. The Walkerston bypass is near completion. This road will deliver safety for the township of Walkerston. There is another upgraded link of the pit-to-port route and more locals in jobs, building local infrastructure.

The Mercurius company's study into the development of aviation fuel from bagasse is ready to move to the next phase, which is the stage before commercialisation. It is another industry project backed by the Palaszczuk government. This study has been undertaken at the QUT laboratory at Racecourse Mill. This laboratory will soon undergo a \$10 million upgrade with the support of the Palaszczuk government. We are developing new industries for the whole of Queensland, not just my region.

While I am on my feet, I want to make it very clear that on this side of the House we respect women. I want to talk about the Leader of the Opposition's disgraceful comments not only about me but also about the member for Redlands. It is a privilege to stand here representing our communities—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence, and I ask the member to withdraw.

Ms Grace: It wasn't personal.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I will adjudicate on this, thanks, member for McConnel. I will take some advice.

Ms Grace: She did not mention you; she mentioned the Leader of the Opposition. You cannot take personal offence. Do you still think you are the leader?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member, the member has taken personal offence. I ask you to withdraw.

Mrs GILBERT: I did not—

Ms GRACE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Just for clarification, honestly, I heard the member mention the Leader of the Opposition, not the member for Nanango. Whether the member for Nanango is confused about her position in this House—I do not know how you take personal offence when it was directed at—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for McConnel will resume her seat. I will take some advice. Before I hear the member for Nanango's point of order, firstly, member for McConnel, I had earlier in this debate given advice and guidance to another member about misusing points of order to attempt to debate and incite debate. You are an experienced member of parliament. I will take your point of order, but I would ask you in future to refrain from that behaviour. Neither I, nor the clerks at the table have heard the references that the point of order relates to. We can go and check the audio if we need to, but we will leave it with the member for Mackay. If you have personally referenced a member, I would ask you to withdraw. If you have not, you can continue the debate. If that does not satisfy the member who took the point of order, there are remedies she can seek in relation to that. Member for Nanango, do you have any further points of order?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will accept your ruling and let's hope the member for Mackay does as well.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I do not need your commentary on my rulings. I call the member and, of course, you will accept my rulings. I am Deputy Speaker of the House and in charge of the House at this time. I call the member for Mackay.

Mrs GILBERT: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I assumed that the member for Broadwater was the Leader of the Opposition. I withdraw if the member for Nanango has taken—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Mackay, any withdrawal will be unconditional. Do you withdraw?

Mrs GILBERT: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can continue.

Mrs GILBERT: I want to talk about the member for Broadwater's disgraceful comments not only about me but also about the member for Redlands. It is a privilege to stand here representing our communities and Queenslanders in this House—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Broadwater and member for Miller, cease your quarrelling.

Mrs GILBERT: The member for Broadwater—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock! Member for Everton, I had just asked two other members to cease their quarrelling and you engaged in the same behaviour. You are warned.

Mrs GILBERT: The member for Broadwater in his position gets a chance to broadcast his message across the media every other day. I accept that the opposition and this side of the House are quite often ideologically opposed, but that does not excuse the gender-based name-calling from the member for Broadwater in this House and in the media. He has now twice used his position of power to call women 'nodding donkeys' and refuses to apologise. He also had a crack at my appearance because I am not tall enough to be seen over the seats, and I cannot see him when I am sitting back in my seat. This is the standard that the LNP has set. By saying nothing, they say that this is the sort of language which is acceptable.

The LNP wonder why they have a problem attracting women to their party. Of course, we know that of their 34 members in this House a mere six are women. When they do attract them, some of them think that they need to behave in an aggressive and abusive way. The member for Whitsunday set up councillors on Mackay Regional Council for abuse from the community with a Facebook post, slamming them over a vote in council. When women councillors received death threats, she did very little to withdraw what she was saying—

(Time expired)