



Speech By  
**Julianne Gilbert**


**MEMBER FOR MACKAY**

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Record of Proceedings, 30 March 2023

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Union Movement, Women in Leadership; LNP Opposition**

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.09 pm): Women on this side of the House are proud to be unionists. It is the union movement that mentors women into leadership roles within their unions and as activists and leaders in their workplaces, making sure that workplaces are safe and fair and helping to crack glass ceilings. I am grateful for the many years of membership that I have had within the QTU and the United Workers Union.

Today women in Australia can celebrate being the first to have a vote in a national parliament anywhere in the world. This is because of the great work of the wonderful unionist Emma Miller. Emma Miller is recognised by the Queensland Council of Unions every year with the Emma Miller Awards. Unionists nominate strong women making changes and standing up for fairness in their workplaces. This is what the sisterhood of women looks like—that is, women and men getting together to celebrate the strong achievements of women.

On the other side of this chamber is a leader who is obsessed with donkeys and belittling women. The 'donkey-gate' scandal enveloping the LNP leader is widening. He has no idea on how to show respect towards women. When the Attorney-General called him out today about his abuse of the member for Ipswich, he and his mates over there just sat and laughed. They have a problem with women and a policy vacuum. However, I do congratulate those opposite for finding some new female candidates, but over there chaos reigns. No-one is sure who is in charge. One night when I was speaking and I referred to the Leader of the Opposition, it was another member who got to her feet—maybe jumping the gun on another leadership reshuffle. I will go back to the sisterhood, women supporting women and women being guided and mentoring other women and junior girls into leadership positions.

**Mrs Frecklington:** How's this women supporting women? Labor women are bullies!

**Mrs GILBERT:** The member for Whitsunday ran a campaign in her electorate against a vote taken by Mackay Regional Council—

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Deputy Speaker Martin, I rise to a point of order. The member for Nanango made a comment just before. I am a Labor woman. I take personal offence and I ask that it be withdrawn.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): The member has taken personal offence. I did not hear what was said, but the member has taken personal offence. Will you withdraw?

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I do not believe the minister was personally named and it requires someone to be personally named.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, I did not hear what was said. I understand, getting advice from the clerks at the table, that no-one was personally named, so there is no point of order.

**Mrs GILBERT:** There was a campaign against a vote taken by the Mackay Regional Council to remove artwork from one of its structures in a skate park, and that is fair enough. The campaign got ugly. Women councillors told me that they were invited to a public meeting on the issue in good faith and the member for Whitsunday screamed and yelled at them and built up a very angry crowd. Councillors' names listed on her Facebook page started getting death threats and she gave them no protection. That is not what women do. Women stick together. They look after each other, and these are women who supported her at pre-poll. This is not what women do. We stick together.