




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 29 March 2023

MOTION: CAIRNS, TOWNSVILLE AND REDLANDS ELECTORATES

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (5.03 pm): I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'House' be omitted and the following inserted:

'1. notes:

- (a) the crime statistics publicly available on the QPS website and the strong community safety laws and investment by the Palaszczuk government;
 - (b) the record \$2.9 billion Palaszczuk government police budget to support community safety;
 - (c) the record \$23.6 billion Palaszczuk government health budget to support all Queenslanders;
 - (d) the Satellite Hospitals Program, including a satellite hospital in Redlands to provide health care to Queenslanders closer to home;
 - (e) the \$6.79 billion in concessions to support Queenslanders in the recent Palaszczuk government budget;
 - (f) the LNP opposition are the same, tired old team, with the same plan for Queenslanders—to, cut, sack and sell;
 - (g) that the Leader of the Opposition abandoned North Queensland and replaced the youngest female MP to take the seat of Broadwater;
 - (h) the Leader of the Opposition in a press conference with and regarding the LNP Redlands candidate said, "you're not going to see a candidate who stands behind the leader like a nodding donkey, I want someone who fights for the area and is a strong voice";
 - (i) the Leader of Opposition in 2021 referred to the member for Mackay in the parliament as a "nodding donkey";
2. calls on the Leader of the Opposition to withdraw his comments regarding "nodding donkey" and apologise; and
3. acknowledges and endorses the continued dedicated work for their communities of the members for Cairns, Thuringowa and Redlands.'

I am very pleased to speak to this amended motion. Firstly, the Leader of the Opposition must absolutely apologise for the comments that he made about the member for Redlands and the member for Mackay. I know those opposite are going to jump up and down and whinge and whine and say, 'No, no, no! Those comments were not directed at any particular individual.' If that is honestly true, why does the Leader of the Opposition not stand up and say, 'That was not directed at an individual. I did not mean to cause offence but if I did I apologise'? He needs to take responsibility. The Leader of the Opposition hides behind the member for Kawana. The 'conveyancer from Kawana' rushes to his defence. A real leader would apologise. He would take responsibility and apologise.

This morning I said that the LNP clearly have a woman problem. Can I say that it is not just that they have a problem with women; it seems that they are unable to even mention the word 'women'. Until the last 10 seconds of the contribution of the member for Kawana, in which he talked about their wonderful community candidates, he did not say that they are women. On Sunday, when the Leader of the Opposition announced those candidates, how many times did he mention that they were women? For 10 minutes yesterday—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! You may continue, Attorney-General.

Ms FENTIMAN: For 10 minutes yesterday the Leader of the Opposition stood in this chamber and talked about his new candidates. In 1,400 words did he mention once that they were women? He cannot even bring himself to say the word 'women'.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Mudgeeraba, you are on a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Mudgeeraba withdrew from the chamber at 5.07 pm.

Ms FENTIMAN: The Leader of the Opposition is clearly afraid to admit that the LNP has a problem with women. There are only six women in their caucus and only five in the chamber now.

Ms CAMM: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the Attorney-General's comment that there are only six women here in the LNP. There are six women, but I take personal offence at those comments that are repeated in this chamber to vilify and bully us.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The taking of points of order is not an opportunity to engage in debate. I will take some advice regarding the substance of the point of order. Member, you cannot take personal offence on behalf of a group.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Nanango, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms FENTIMAN: My point is, how can you hope to represent modern Queensland with so few women in your party? They had an opportunity with the Callide by-election to actually put a woman into a safe seat. It was a failure of the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr Head interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Callide, you are warned under the standing orders. That was unnecessary and extreme.

Ms FENTIMAN: The LNP cannot hope to represent modern Queensland with so few women in their party room. The reason women are turned off politics is because of the comments of the Leader of the Opposition. He must apologise.