




Speech By
Aaron Harper

MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA

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MOTIONS

Labor Party, Together Union

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (5.52 pm): Taking up from the member for Caloundra's contribution, it is the big issue of the day for the LNP's motion to talk about branding and colours. Let me start by responding to the member for Whitsunday. Firstly, Townsville is in North Queensland, not Far North Queensland. If the member wants to talk about purple branding and stepping away from branding, here is a media article from the ABC which states—

LNP reprimanded over poll-booth tactics

The Australian Electoral Commission has found Liberal National Party (LNP) volunteers acted illegally by dressing in T-shirts with Greens party slogans in the Brisbane seat of Ryan.

I table that.

Tabled paper: Article from *ABC News* online, dated 21 August 2010, titled 'LNP reprimanded over poll-booth tactics' [417](#).

Thank you to the member for Mundingburra for providing this. Then in 2022, if you want to talk about branding, there is, 'How rural LNP candidates are distancing themselves away from the Party'. I will table that because it makes for interesting reading.

Tabled paper: Article from *Honi Soit*, dated 27 April 2022, titled 'How rural LNP candidates are distancing themselves from the Party' [418](#).

They want to talk about branding and colours, goodness me—the big issues of the day. In response to the LNP motion, I say that I will meet with all members regardless of what union they might be in and all members of my community, and I will fight for them every single day for improved cost-of-living relief, including Together members. I met with them recently. They talked about struggling with the cost of living. As a third term proud member for Thuringowa, I will always advocate for all people in my electorate, and I will fight on behalf of the Miles government for more cost-of-living relief. The LNP's response to the cost-of-living crisis is to campaign for different terms of reference for a review.

What we need is action on the cost of living, not more hollow promises. Our government is delivering. I know that every family is different, and good local members listen to their community and what is best for them. I am proud to have pledged that I will fight for more cost-of-living relief in 2024. I met with Alex Scott and Together members just last week. They told me how hardworking families are struggling with the cost of living, because I will always listen to my community. I will continue to work with the Together union and other unions and the Coalition of Working Families to give my community a chance to have their say on what cost-of-living relief would be best for them in 2024.

I support this campaign and I will be part of the process of listening and fighting for my community. It is not about party politics: it is about making a difference to Queensland families. The member for Kawana wants to talk about electoral laws. We know how the LNP gets their donations. I recall a certain boot camp and helicopter ride by the member for Kawana off to Lincoln Springs. It is the same mob who made a donation to the LNP. The writing is on the wall. We know that the LNP is anti-union. They do not support workers in this state.

I have been a proud member of my union, the United Workers Union, since 1990, and I continue to be a proud member and stand up for all those hardworking members. What did the LNP do when they were in power? What did they do to workers? They stripped away the long-held public holiday in May—nasty! They stripped away common law workers compensation rights to about 9,000 injured workers—nasty! They removed the rights and entitlements of injured workers—nasty! They used workplace health and safety as a political football and removed all rights and entitlements for workers—nasty! They supported the cutting of penalty rates and attacked the award system—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Resume your seat, please, member. I want to take some advice. Member, I am finding it difficult to find the relevance of this particular part of your contribution to the motion or the amendment. I will give you a moment to demonstrate that or move on.

Mr HARPER: Third parties, community organisations and unions have a right to participate in elections. It is an important part of our democratic institution that third parties can have their voices heard. Campaign expenditure caps and donation reporting are all part of the government's strong legacy on electoral reform. We introduced real-time disclosures laws; the LNP voted against those. We reduced the donation disclosure back to \$1,000 after the LNP raised it to over \$12,000. The LNP voted against banning property developer donations and challenged it all the way to the High Court when they lost. The Leader of the Opposition called donation caps and banning property developers from our democratic system a 'corrupt financial gerrymander'. The member for Nanango, before she was deposed as leader, was referred to the ECQ by her own party for holding dodgy meetings with property developers in 2020. The LNP cannot lie straight in bed.

(Time expired)