




Speech By
Adrian Tantari

MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2024

MOTION

Miles Labor Government, Travel Expenses

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (5.57 pm): I rise in support of the amended motion that was moved by the member for Bundaberg. In doing so, I want to reflect on the behaviour of those opposite. It is clearly the case, judging by the original motion moved today and amended by the member for Bundaberg, that they live by the adage of 'do as I say and not as I do' when it comes to the motions they put forward in this place. It is like a form of amnesia has taken over that side. One day they say one thing, the next another. They create fiction to write their version of history. It is as if that side never used aircraft when they were in government to assist their premier, ministers and officials to get around our great state. It has been common practice for many governments over many decades. To insinuate that the use of QGAir to fly to regional Queensland is somehow a luxury shows again how desperate the opposition is to grab a news headline. It is, again, a further attempt by this opposition to rewrite history in recent debates. That is becoming prevalent on that side of the House.

It is very important for this parliament to acknowledge that the great state of Queensland is a huge state and that to travel it and represent the people of Queensland is a big task requiring travel. Any attempt by those in opposition to try to restrict the Premier or his ministers in performing their roles is a sad reflection on their stated desires to represent the whole of Queensland.

Our Premier is someone who is unapologetic, listens and delivers for regional Queensland including my community of Hervey Bay. Last week I was so pleased to have the Premier, police minister and our new Police Commissioner visit my community and speak to our local police and residents about community safety in Hervey Bay. Our Premier gave an undertaking to regional Queensland that he would be there for all Queenslanders. Our Premier did not come just to talk the talk and use slick political slogans like the Leader of the Opposition and the LNP do. During his visit he showed real action on community safety which will make a difference to my community of Hervey Bay. He announced that the Miles government would deliver a new \$28 million police facility in Hervey Bay, doubling the scope of the original plan. He committed to delivering 98 more police personnel for the North Coast Region—and that includes Hervey Bay—many new officers to serve in my community. He listened to the round table of Hervey Bay residents who signed my petition for a new helicopter service and he delivered the Polair helicopter service to our region.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr TANTARI: He did. When I was first elected I gave the people of Hervey Bay and the fine women and men of the Hervey Bay police force a commitment that I would do my best to support them with new facilities and resources. Thank you, Premier and police minister; that has been delivered. That is what good governments do; they come to our regional communities and they listen and deliver.

Do honourable members know what else happened last week? In a stark contrast, the LNP shadow cabinet rolled into town and delivered absolutely nothing, just slick slogans and fancy photo shoots. They went and found a camera here, a camera there and made some outrageous statements. That is exactly what the people of Hervey Bay have come to expect from those opposite: they just rolled into town, went down to city hall and all they could do was just talk down the town. They rolled into town, found their cameras and then they were out again.

I have had conversations with the people of Hervey Bay and they continually say how much our government has delivered during my short term as their member. Why? Because when the former LNP member for Hervey Bay was in charge over a decade ago—and he was the member for four terms—Hervey Bay got nothing to show for our growing community's needs. That is why our community backed the Labor member at the last election, because they were tired of being unrepresented, of seeing nothing happening in Hervey Bay due to the inaction of the former LNP member. They know they just cannot risk the LNP candidate for Hervey Bay and the Leader of the Opposition, who have shown no plans to deliver for our region and the people of Hervey Bay.

On this side we have a Premier who will always deliver and listen to the people of Hervey Bay—more police and more tools that they need to keep our community safe. As a regional member, it is good to know that the Miles government has a focus on regional Queensland. When Premier Miles and his minister come to my place in Queensland, it says to the people of Hervey Bay that our government is serious about ensuring that their voices are heard. On that side they can only do one thing and that is cut, sell and sack.