




Speech By
Ali King

MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

Record of Proceedings, 5 March 2024

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Women

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (2.32 pm): It is Queensland Women's Week, and our Miles Labor government is focused on listening to women and celebrating women's achievements while delivering the services that women need most. These are key issues for half the population of Queensland. Contrary to the words of the member for Kawana, they are not a distraction. We are working hard to deliver life-changing health care for women and girls. We are investing in better care for endometriosis, more mental health care for women, publicly funded IVF, more menopause support and the first ever statewide women and girls health hotline.

What a contrast with the LNP, who we have seen this week will stoop to the grubbiest depths to pull women down. While we are encouraging women to enter male dominated fields, whether it is via a fee-free TAFE placement at QBuild or by running for parliament, the LNP are mostly celebrating their toxic boys' club. The LNP and their weak leader will not rule out stripping back women's abortion rights. We know that they are planning another round of savage health cuts like their cuts to family planning and their cuts to domestic and family violence services. These issues are not a distraction; they are key issues for women right across our state. The LNP disrespect the women of Queensland when they call these issues a distraction. They wonder why they have a women problem.

We expect robust debate in this House. I am proud to stand up and fight for my community. We have standing orders here to protect us and centuries of custom and practice that are designed to respect the institution and dignity of the institution of parliament. As a woman in this place, I am accustomed to the way LNP members routinely disrespect female members during debate, but not once did I expect even a member of the LNP to leer over my shoulder and take non-consensual photographs and then spread them around as clickbait. Shame! On behalf of my daughter and all women of Queensland who might ever aspire to public life, I am offended, I am troubled and I am appalled. Shame on the LNP member who invaded my privacy in such a creepy way. Shame on him for disrespecting standing orders and shame on his colleagues who in their silence are endorsing that creepy, disrespectful and inappropriate behaviour—

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr Hart interjected.

Ms KING:—and I am looking at the member for Burleigh.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Resume your seat, please, member for Pumicestone. Member for Southern Downs and member for Burleigh, you are both warned under the standing orders.

Ms KING: The LNP's toxic attitudes to women are exactly the reason women like me run for office. You will not deter us. We will not stop until we have uprooted—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair.

Ms KING:—your toxic beliefs root and branch. Sitting near the LNP members opposite, I saw their disrespect for women every day. I heard them make repulsive, sexualised comments about women MPs, particularly the former premier. I heard them degrade women and diminish us, calling us nodding donkeys. Yesterday we saw them take that to a new low with their sharing of non-consensual photographs.

At the end of the day, this is on the Leader of the Opposition. There are two choices here: he lets the LNP blokes in his team get away with bullying female MPs either because it suits him or because he is too weak to pull them into line. He should be standing up to this misogynistic, grubby culture—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Nanango. You are on the speaking list. You will have your opportunity.

Ms KING:—but in true bystander fashion, he is too weak and too cowardly. If the LNP win the next election, this is the standard the women of Queensland can look forward to: community leaders who think it is acceptable, even admirable, to invade women's privacy, to take non-consensual photos, to harass women in the workplace, and to strip women's rights and cut women's services. You only have to look at who was seated behind me when that photograph was taken to have an idea who may have been responsible. There is the member for Burleigh, who was right there behind me. There is also the member for Coomera. We know that he is a keen amateur photographer. I call on whoever that member was to man up—

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Burleigh, you can leave the chamber for one hour under the standing orders. You were under a warning.

Whereupon the honourable member for Burleigh withdrew from the chamber at 2.36 pm.

Ms KING: I call on whoever took that photograph to man up, take responsibility and apologise. If he will not, the weak LNP leader should try to make him—if he is up to it. I am not holding my breath, though, because I do not believe the LNP are capable of change when it comes to women. They do not respect women. They do not back women at work. They want to defund women's services. They want to take our jobs. They want to score their cheap political points at the expense of women's bodily autonomy—and you all know it is true. The LNP are 100 per cent toxic—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Comments will come through the chair.

Ms KING:—when it comes to their treatment of women, and the women of Queensland know this very well. In Queensland Women's Week 2024, the LNP have shown that in 2024 they still cannot be trusted when it comes to women. Queensland women simply cannot risk the toxic LNP and their weak, unprincipled leader.

(Time expired)