



Speech By
Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

Record of Proceedings, 20 March 2024

MOTIONS

Labor Party, Together Union

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (5.58 pm): Let's have a look at this Labor state government's record on crime. In 2023 there were 130,000 more victims of crime than in 2014—342,786 victims of crime under this Labor state government. What about the cost of living? Last financial year electricity prices were up 25.4 per cent when across the nation it was 13.4 per cent. Just this week we found out it is going up another \$53 just in Queensland.

What about housing? New lot approvals are down 35 per cent since 2015 and rent is up 46 per cent. What about health? Ambulance ramping is at 43 per cent—the worst in the nation. There are 290,000 people on the waitlist for the waitlist and there are more than 60,000 on a waitlist for surgery. This is hardly a record you would be proud of. This is hardly a record you would want your community to know about if you were the Labor members for Algester, Hervey Bay, Caloundra, Pumicestone, Maryborough, Redlands, Nicklin, Barron River or Cairns, so what have those members done? They have ripped off the red, they have draped themselves in Together union purple and they have tried to distance themselves from a generation of Labor failure.

Tonight I want to have a look at the performance of one of those members. Let us have a look at the member for Nicklin's performance and consider why he needs to run away from the Labor brand. The government's amendment states—

... notes all Labor members continue to listen to issues raised by their community—

Let us have a look at that. Just last week when a local Nambour business reached out on a community page for advice about unruly behaviour and issues with their business, the member for Nicklin—instead of going to visit the business to see what he could do to assist—decided to abuse the business owner online. That post has been conveniently deleted. What did he say? He said—

don't lecture us on our obligations, I won't tolerate that.

The business owner said—

Nice to know you don't want to hear the views of your constituents though.

The member for Nicklin went on to post—

yeah righto mate. I actually heard you. I might have given you the response you didn't want. Oh well. One less vote. Just speaking from on the ground. I know all the people in the space and you are not one of them. I can live with that.

For a bloke who came in here on a margin of 84 votes he is pretty confident, but it is the people of Nicklin who miss out. Embarrassingly, the business owner pointed out to the member for Nicklin that they were actually tagged in the original post by the member for Nicklin. The reaction from the member for Nicklin when businesses were discussing these issues online shocked other small business owners in Nambour who are also suffering under this government's lack of action on crime. Some of the responses included—

Ally was very respectful. In my opinion you haven't been. Let's see if we "tolerate" that next time you're up for election. You come across as very arrogant.

And—

Robert Skelton MP for Nicklin You are embarrassing yourself. I voted for you last election but I won't again.

Other comments in response from locals on the post included—

he is the member of parliament and I am absolutely disgusted in his behaviour and the way he has responded to the public who was asking for assistance.

That is hardly listening. Another community member said—

Robert Skelton MP for Nicklin Your attitude in this thread is appalling. What an arrogant, heartless attitude you seem to have.

Arrogant and heartless: where have I seen that before? It is written on the faces and heard through the words of every single member of this tired, third-term Labor government. They are arrogant and heartless. Just yesterday in response to concerns about a man who had lost his life and should not have—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member, can I ask you to come back to the motion or the amendment. I have given you some latitude but you have strayed a long way away.

Mr MICKELBERG: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. It is clear that those opposite are not listening to their community. Arrogant and heartless is business as usual for this Labor government. The member for Nicklin is not listening to his community and he has given up on the small businesses in his community. He does not want to listen. Those same businesses reached out to our local community champion, Marty Hunt. Marty and I will be meeting with those businesses next week to listen to their concerns because Marty cares about the Nicklin community, Marty will fight for the Nicklin community and Marty will listen to the Nicklin community, unlike the current member for Nicklin. I know that Marty has the right priorities for Nicklin.

Rather than hiding and running away from Labor's shameful record, it is time for Labor to listen to their constituents—not to harvest data for their union mates. It is time to listen. It is time to tackle health, housing, crime and cost of living. It is time to show Labor the door in 2024.