




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Record of Proceedings, 10 September 2024

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Miles Labor Government, Central Queensland

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (2.43 pm): The Central Queensland Labor team is fit and we are ready for a long race coming up. For those punters in the House who have heard of the early crow, the LNP are the early crow for the election: they think they have won it. We are work horses. We are not show ponies like the LNP. While the Central Queensland LNP members are stuck in the stables complaining and doing not much as usual, we are rolling up our sleeves in CQ and we are getting on with it.

On top of our record cost-of-living relief that we have delivered, we have delivered Rookwood Weir, we have delivered support for manufacturing and we have delivered support for our local councils. We have also given our commitment for a new satellite hospital at Rockhampton and we are delivering a ring-road for that fantastic community as well, plus we are delivering the Mount Morgan pipeline. Of course we are full steam ahead with the Fitzroy to Gladstone pipeline—that mighty pipeline delivering water to new industries in Gladstone.

The current LNP mob highlight why we need a Labor government and Labor members in Rocky, Keppel and Gladstone, because the LNP are an embarrassment in Central Queensland. Can you believe Senator Matt Canavan, sitting in air conditioning in Yeppoon with his selfie stick and his merchandise surrounding him, was talking down our support for the Boyne smelter to make sure those jobs were secure until 2040?

Mr Head interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, member for Callide!

Mr BUTCHER: In our biggest industrial city, instead of backing jobs in Central Queensland, he is just a negative keyboard warrior continually talking down workers in Central Queensland. We saw the federal member for Capricornia enjoying chockies and whiskey on a trip to Tasmania while talking down the Queensland manufacturing industry—an absolute embarrassment as a federal member—and the members for Flynn and Callide, pretending to care about the Great Artesian Basin, even though the LNP stumped up \$5 million—

Mr HEAD: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. What is your point of order, member for Callide?

Mr HEAD: I take personal offense to those comments and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice. Member for Callide, the references do have to be personal. It was to the electorate rather than to you as an individual, but I will listen carefully. If I do hear any personal reflections, I will certainly be pulling those up.

Mr BUTCHER: The LNP federal government stumped up \$5 million to pump carbon capture and storage into Australia's largest underground aquifer!

Manufacturing is such an important part of the Central Queensland economy. We know that Queensland's economy relies on Central Queensland. We back our manufacturers in Queensland unlike the LNP who continually talk them down. I am proud of our manufacturing record in Central Queensland. We are supporting businesses right across the region.

When I visit manufacturers in Central Queensland I meet operators who play by the rules and who want the best for their business and their family. They are honest and hardworking and they have integrity. The same cannot be said for the Leader of the Opposition. Wasn't that David Speers interview on TV the other night an absolute train wreck, literally? 'No obligations, no findings'—and he said it four times. It is our Queensland version of Scott Morrison's 'I don't hold a hose, mate' comment and Tony Abbott's death stare into nowhere. The LNP never take responsibility. They always shirk blame and always dodge the tough questions that Queenslanders and the media ask.

A fortnight ago in Bundaberg, the LNP used a hospital as a photo booth for a political ad. Apparently they got in the way of our hardworking health workers and an ambulance which is an absolute embarrassment. When called out for it, what did the Leader of the Opposition and the candidate do? They called health workers liars and they did a runner from the press when they asked them questions about it. The opposition leader is a good runner—and that is not a compliment. Whether it is running from the press conferences or running away from SET Solutions, this bloke has serious questions to answer not just to the parliament—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Use correct titles, please.

Mr BUTCHER: The member has serious questions to answer not just to the parliament but to the whole of Queensland. The LNP leader really is just a shifty salesman. His story gets murkier and murkier every day in Queensland.

Mr Head interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Callide!

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. What is your point of order, member for Clayfield?

Mr NICHOLLS: My point of order is unparliamentary language. I am sure you heard the word 'shifty' used by the member, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr BUTCHER: I withdraw. As murky as a brown snake in Bulimba, you could say he is running away from questions and running away from Runaway Bay!

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before you take a point of order, member for Clayfield, I do know he has used further unparliamentary language. Minister, I ask you to refrain from using unparliamentary language. If it continues, I will sit you down.

Mr BUTCHER: I withdraw. This is a bloke who said his business had no links to LNP donors, but it turns out—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Use correct titles, please. Does that satisfy your point of order, member for Clayfield?

Mr NICHOLLS: Yes.

Mr BUTCHER: I withdraw. This is a member who said his business had no links to LNP donors— but guess what? It did. Despite the train wreck interview on the ABC, it has been reported that he was pursued out of court and paid \$200,000 in hush money to liquidators. This does not pass the pub test in any pub I have ever been to.

Mr Head interjected.

Mr BUTCHER: If he did not do anything wrong, if there is nothing to see here, why pay the hush money?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next speaker, member for Callide, you are warned under the standing orders. You have continued to interject repeatedly.