




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 19 March 2024

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Liberal National Party

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (2.33 pm): I think there were a few misleading lines reiterated there. The minister has made her position perfectly clear in this House a number of times.

A government member interjected.

Ms GRACE: Yes, there is no need to mislead; she has made her position very clear. It is no good coming in here saying there have been refusals and the rest. There is a process; she has made it clear. It is a tragedy. Saying that she is refusing to do certain things—

An honourable member interjected.

Ms GRACE: I will take that interjection—is misleading. That will occur within the time. Of course these are tragedies. My family in Hobart recently went through a similar experience at the Hobart Hospital. We were recently down there talking to them about a sad loss in our family. These things happen. They are tragic. My family has still not recovered from some of it. I am not going to go into the detail. This is not the time or the place. Of course we have sympathy for the families when tragedies occur.

If those opposite truly believe that if they get into government a similar incident will never happen because suddenly they occupy the government benches then they are misled as well. These tragedies happen in hospitals—just like it happened when those opposite closed the Barrett centre and young people lost their lives. We did not come into government and sack 14,000 public servants. Nurses and midwives could not believe they were being sacked from hospitals. Imagine that happening to the hospital system. I say to those opposite: yes, these are very sad circumstances. No-one understands it more. We will go through the process and commit to what the minister has—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): The members for Mudgeeraba, Gympie and Maryborough will all cease their interjections.

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maryborough, you are warned. You have continued your cross-chamber banter as I have been trying to get your attention.

Ms GRACE: We understand the issues facing Queensland and Australia. Having recently come back from Hobart I can say that they are facing exactly the same issues under a Liberal government. There were issues with housing, with youth crime, with the cost of living and with health. They have exactly the same issues under a Liberal government. The truth of the matter is that these issues are

being faced all over Australia at the moment post COVID. We understand that and people out there do. That is not to say that we do not address these issues. Housing, hospitals, schools and transport are all in our plans to deliver, as well as the infrastructure we need to deliver a world-class 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games and a lasting community legacy across the state. We are going to make the most of the opportunity that being firmly at the centre of the world stage gives us, and we are going to do it within our own existing funding envelope.

I heard the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition get up and say a few things about this issue today. I have never heard people doublespeak and not actually say anything. They know we are working on an independent delivery authority to deliver the games. That will be in place by mid-July, so I am not sure exactly what the Leader of the Opposition is referring to when he says 'if after October all of a sudden this delivery authority materialises'. It will materialise; we have made that commitment perfectly clear. I want to take this opportunity to thank Graham Quirk, Ken Kanofski and Michelle Morris for their thought processes.

An opposition member interjected.

Ms GRACE: We did not ignore them; we implemented 27 of the 30 recommendations and—

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Ms GRACE: Read page 31 of the report. They presented what they said about Victoria Park. The report states—

... while initial indications are positive, the findings presented here are preliminary in nature and need more work to be validated before they can be relied upon properly.

The Premier has made his position very clear in relation to the \$3.4 billion. There is no such clear position from those opposite. I say to those opposite: instead of reading menus from restaurants—and ex-premiers are free to do whatever they want—maybe you should study the report and come up with a position, because that is what the people of Queensland are going to demand.