




Speech By
Julianne Gilbert

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2024

MOTION

Miles Labor Government, Travel Expenses

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (5.38 pm): I would like to speak in support of the amended motion moved by the member for Bundaberg. My region is one of the best regions in the state and we deserve to have the Premier and ministers of this state come and visit and engage with the community and hear from our frontline workers. Our local police force deserve to have a visit from our new Police Commissioner. The police are out there on our streets doing the hard yards, keeping everyone safe in our community, and they deserve to be able to engage with the Premier, the police minister and the commissioner.

After the Mackay community cabinet meeting, locals were pleased that they had the opportunity to talk with the Premier, ministers and senior public servants. I was talking earlier today to Clacy Fatnowna about another issue and just out of the blue he said that it was so important to have the Premier and the ministers in town. He said it was so relaxed and to be able to talk to them was so important.

The visitors met with Kylie Porter from GW3. She said it was exactly what their community needed. Vic Vassallo said to me that it was so easy to get a meeting. He did not expect to speak with the Deputy Premier; he thought he would just speak with staffers. However, this is what happens when you bring ministers to town. I doubt those people have ever voted Labor—or ever will—but they appreciated having the Premier and the ministers listening to them. This proves that my region wants our leaders to visit locally so that we can talk to them. We want them to know what our strengths are and we want them to know where we need a hand up to take the next step.

Our youth parliament member for Mackay, Mikalia Green, was allowed to take a few minutes off school the other day to meet with the Police Commissioner and the Mackay-Whitsunday senior police officers to discuss the crime bill she will be debating in the youth parliament. This was only possible because they came to Mackay.

The Miles government is accessible to members of the community regardless of their political alliances. It is very arrogant of those in the south-east who are bleating about the Premier and ministers coming to my region. We deserve to have them where we live. We on this side of the House are looking after regional communities. We are doing that by investing in programs that work and giving our police the tools that they need to be able to do their jobs.

I would like to make special mention of the expansion of the incredibly successful youth co-responder model. Last month in Mackay we celebrated the three-year anniversary of the Mackay youth co-responder team. I say thank you to the police minister for coming up and meeting with the team. In that time, they have made over 5,000 engagements. They are doing the hard work by turning

around the lives of young people. When the Premier visited Mackay last, he went out with them overnight to see the good work that they are doing for himself. He can see that this is an incredibly successful model which pairs police and support workers to deliver highly tailored and direct support services. It was great to be able to visit those support workers with Minister Farmer when she was in town to hear from the frontline people delivering services so that we know these programs are working.

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs GILBERT: I know that those opposite, by the way that they are calling out when I am talking about our frontline workers, do not respect the work that they do. They do not care about our young people.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member for Nanango, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mrs GILBERT: I am so incredibly proud of the work that they are doing in my community. I will not have those opposite putting their work down. What they are doing is what some may call a gold-star early intervention. We are getting on with the job.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Gregory is warned.

Mrs GILBERT: We are getting on with the job of putting in programs, unlike those opposite who just have slick slogans. They have spent all week trashing our plans. They just do not like our co-responder programs because they are working.

(Time expired)