



Speech By  
**Kim Richards**


**MEMBER FOR REDLANDS**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 June 2024

**MOTION**

**Far North Queensland, Infrastructure**

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (5.34 pm): It is quite interesting that the member for Chatsworth used 'MIA' in his contribution when you look at what just happened in this chamber in the last division. I wonder if the candidate for the LNP, who was probably the most LNP we had in this particular part of the building at that time, realises that that is what leadership looks like. That is what leadership from the LNP looks like: MIA. Honestly, the absolute irony of that. We have just heard from the member for Burdekin, but I think what he said was slightly misleading because he said there has been no work on the Barron River bridge since 2015.

**Mr Last:** When was the last time you were up there?

**Ms RICHARDS:** That is what you said. I am not sure; maybe you have not read the TMR report from October 2021. Maybe you have not been in contact with TMR. As we have just heard from the member for Cairns, there is a \$15 million preconstruction commitment and a plan, which is more than anything I have heard in the last four LNP contributions and your LNP candidate in terms of speaking to plans. We know that when it comes to the LNP saying what their plans and solutions are there is a massive black hole. It is a vacuum. We have heard that live and large in the last four contributions. There is not a solution in place. There is work being undertaken, so it is pretty audacious to come in here and make those sorts of claims.

When we talk about the advocacy and representation of the member for Barron River, the member for Cook and the member for Cairns, I can tell you, member for Burdekin, that you will not find harder working representatives—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Direct your comments through the chair.

**Ms RICHARDS:** I had the opportunity over the Christmas period from Boxing Day to meet with the member for Cook. The geography she covers is absolutely massive.

**Mr Last:** All the way into Cairns, I heard.

**Ms RICHARDS:** It was on Boxing Day, buddy. What were you doing?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Let me remind members—I thought you would know by now—that when the Speaker gets to their feet you sit down and be quiet, so the member for Pine Rivers is warned under the standing orders. Member for Redlands, your comments will come through the chair or you will be warned and you will be sat down.

**Ms RICHARDS:** The member for Cook is a tireless worker for her community. If anybody on that side of the chamber doubts the devastation that occurred in Far North Queensland as a result of Tropical Cyclone Jasper—honestly, it speaks to how out of touch the LNP is if they do not recognise the amount of damage that was done up there.

Let's wind the clock back to when the LNP were in government. They sacked 700 RoadTek workers. RoadTek was working pretty darn hard on Boxing Day and every day thereafter to address the huge amount of damage that was done to the roads. Causeways were totally washed away; there were landslips and road crumbings. Wujal Wujal was a disaster. To suggest that the members for Barron River, Cook, Cairns and Mulgrave do not advocate for their communities absolutely beggars belief. If we were in a time machine and we went back to when the LNP was in government, 1 William Street would be about all they could point to in terms of what they delivered. That is about the most they can point to when it comes to delivery.

As I said, our Miles Labor government will continue to invest in upgrading roads. As we heard from the member for Cairns, there are plans in place for that bridge. If any of the opposition had driven through Cairns from Redlynch to Yorkeys Knob, they would see the Smithfield Bypass—a massive investment in road infrastructure in the Cairns region. When we talk about investments and plans and when we look at what is down at the moment—and that does not even include what is in the current QTRIP—what are the plans from the LNP?

**Mr Lister:** Emu Swamp Dam.

**Ms RICHARDS:** I do not think I used the word 'water' in that contribution, so I am not sure why the member for Southern Downs wants to bring up Emu Swamp Dam. As I said, I support the minister's amendment. You will not find harder workers for their electorate than the members for Cook, Barron River, Cairns and Mulgrave. What the LNP have brought to the table speaks to where they are at, honestly. That is what Queensland could expect.