




Speech By
Hon. Meaghan Scanlon

MEMBER FOR GAVEN

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Liberal National Party, Performance; Women's Week

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works) (2.22 pm): It is great to follow the member for Maroochydore because we know the history of those opposite when it comes to infrastructure, and that is to cut. That is why I also found the remarks of the member for Chatsworth so interesting about the three train stations on the Gold Coast—because they would not exist if the LNP had been elected. It does not matter how much they cost because they just cut them entirely. Of course, the member for Broadwater, who has this train station being built in his own electorate, is petitioning for more car parks for a project that he did not even commit to. It is embarrassing.

I did want to make my contribution about Women's Week. Can I say how proud I am to be part of a Labor government that has so many incredible women in our ranks. That did not happen by accident; it happened because of the Queensland Labor Women's Network, EMILY's List and many hardworking rank-and-file members who fought for a really long time to ensure that we have equal representation in this House. That has delivered better policies, and we can see that with the decisions our government has made over many years. We have equal representation of women on boards, we decriminalised abortion, we have paid domestic and family violence leave and we have free period products in schools. Many other measures have happened not by accident but because women are around the decision-making tables making sure that we support other women in our community.

We also have a whole range of law reforms that I will not go into now, but I want to recognise all of the incredible women who shared their stories that led to the law reform that is taking place this week. I had a session on the Gold Coast with the health minister where we heard of people's experiences in the healthcare system. I am really proud of the Women and Girls' Health Strategy that we have released that will make the lives of Queensland women much better. I want to acknowledge in particular people like Di Macleod from the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence. She has been working for years and years to get the legislation we passed earlier this week around coercive control through the parliament. She should be recognised, along with all of the other very brave women who shared their stories.

I want to remark on a couple of other women in my community who joined us last night at the women's event. Vikki Hocking from the Pacific Pines Residents Group gives up so much of her time every week and every month to make sure that our community has a say. She puts events together. This is a person who gives up her own time to try to make that Pacific Pines community a better place. I also want to acknowledge Tracy Bosworth, the president of the Worongary P&C. She does fantastic work, as does Tracey Spiers, whose kids do not even go to Nerang State High School anymore. I want to acknowledge those incredible women and I think we should all acknowledge those incredible women.