




Speech By
Hon. Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 18 February 2025

MOTION

Member for Stafford

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (12.34 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by my colleague today. I would like to address exactly what the Deputy Premier has addressed. Let us get to the issue that we are here to discuss. This issue is about the Leader of the Opposition and his leadership. What has he done in relation to this matter? We have not heard from one female opposite—not one. The member for Inala talked the whole way through the contribution of the Minister for Women. She has the hide to question the Minister for Women about her stance on the protection of domestic and family violence victims. I would like to hear what the member for Inala thinks about this situation. I would like to hear what the Leader of the Opposition thinks about this situation. We have heard from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and are all left questioning his leadership. He is obviously throwing away his future ambitions for the member for Waterford, yet the member for Waterford is not here justifying her position.

There are media reports that women on that side of the parliament are refusing to sit with the member for Stafford in their caucus room. The question is: why? That is a question for the Leader of the Opposition. What is he doing to protect those women who have spoken out to the media? Why do they feel so unsafe that they have to go to the media?

A government member: They don't have any leadership.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection: with the Leader of the Opposition, they do not have a leader who will stand up for them. There have been reports about what the Leader of the Opposition is concerned about and it is the votes in caucus. Apparently, despite being on enforced leave, the member for Stafford's proxy vote had to be used in the caucus room to bolster the right's factional fight for frontbench spots. If the Leader of the Opposition does not think a member of his team is up to coming to work, why does he think his vote should be taken? Where was the member for Stafford's vote when it came to the Making Queensland Safer Laws? We know there was a big division over there and one side lost by only one vote. My question is: where was the member for Stafford's vote? It is being taken for factional warfare. Is it being taken for the Making Queensland Safer Laws as well? This is about the leadership of the Leader of the Opposition or lack thereof.

It is interesting to note that the member for Waterford has not spoken on this issue. We all know about the factional warfare that is going on over there. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition stood up and tried to justify his position but maybe, like I say, he knows his future ambitions have been thwarted. That is why I say that we should be hearing from the member for Waterford in relation to this situation. There are so many questions that need to be answered.

A government member: Stand up for the women over there.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am happy to take that interjection. I would also like to know why, as reported in the media, the women on that side of the House will not sit beside the member for Stafford. It is not us saying that. It is not the government casting stones. It is the Labor Party casting those stones. It is the Labor Party trying to get rid of one of their members. The question is: why? Do we deserve a personal explanation? You bet we absolutely do!

Mr Bleijie: What happened on the 27th?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection from the Deputy Premier. The media have taken this issue so seriously that they have reported on it, and not just one news outlet. It has been written about in the *Australian* and reported on by Channel 9 News. We have seen it in the *Courier-Mail*. We have seen the footage. We have waited. We on this side have said nothing. We are not the ones leaking to the media; it is the Labor Party. What does that show us? It shows us a lack of leadership by the Leader of the Opposition. He needs to buckle up and realise that being in opposition is hard and it takes leadership. That is something that this Leader of the Opposition certainly does not have.