



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

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MOTION

Multicultural Communities

 **Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (4.18 pm): I rise today to address this House regarding the demonstration of poor leadership by the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Steven Miles. The actions of the Leader of the Opposition are dangerous, desperate and reckless. As Leader of the Opposition one would expect him to set a standard of conduct and behaviour worthy of his position, to lead by example for his parliamentary colleagues and for the people of Queensland. Sadly, what we have witnessed in recent days demonstrates that his leadership leaves a great deal to be desired.

As members of parliament, we are all leaders in our communities. Leadership carries responsibility. It means setting the tone, acting with respect and being a positive example for those we represent. True leadership requires compassion, understanding and respect. It requires inclusiveness, embracing Queenslanders from all backgrounds regardless of where they were born or their cultural heritage. The Leader of the Opposition has shown poor judgement and demonstrated a deep disrespect for Queensland's multicultural communities. Our communities welcome diversity and value the contribution of people from all walks of life. His behaviour is not only disappointing but also unacceptable.

Actions like this have consequences. We have seen in other countries how reckless words and behaviour can fuel division, inflame tensions and lead to violence and unrest. This is the last thing Queensland needs or deserves. In my own electorate of Maryborough we have wonderful communities—warm, welcoming and compassionate communities that contribute greatly to our region. They mean no harm to anyone. They deserve to be represented, not degraded or disrespected by a political leader. The Leader of the Opposition owes Queenslanders, and especially our multicultural communities, a sincere apology for his poor judgement. Deleting a video does not undo the harm caused. The damage is done and people will not forget the disrespect that has been shown to them. Leaders must unite communities, not divide them; they must show respect, not contempt; and they must uphold standards, not lower them. The Leader of the Opposition has failed on all three counts.