



Speech By  
**Hon. Leanne Linard**


**MEMBER FOR NUDGE**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Crisafulli LNP Government, Environment**

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (2.37 pm): A troubling pattern is becoming increasingly clear under this Crisafulli LNP government. It is a pattern of broken promises, sidelined experts and decisions that undermine the protection of Queensland's environment. Let's begin with the government's disgraceful backflip on funding for the Environmental Defenders Office. A clear promise was made verbally in meetings and reaffirmed in writing by the LNP's then environment spokesperson when in opposition to Queensland's key environmental organisations. That promise was simple: if elected, the LNP would continue funding the EDO, which provides free legal advice and support to Queenslanders—landholders, First Nations groups, farmers and everyday citizens—who are trying to protect their local environment from potential harm. The former shadow environment minister, the member for Bonney, said—

Queenslanders care about their local environment, so landholders and communities deserve some form of access to legal advice when potential threats arise to the special places they love.

Sam was right about that, but clearly this government cannot be trusted to keep their word because they have cut the funding to EDO. They said one thing in opposition and they are saying another now that they are in government. Their word means absolutely nothing. It is a lot easier to override planning regulations and water down environmental protections when the public's ability to hold the government accountable is limited. Those opposite are no different from the Newman LNP government; they are operating from the same playbook. They were environmental vandals then and they are environmental vandals now.

Their real agenda is becoming clearer by the day. It is not just the EDO in their sights; it is the board of the Wet Tropics Management Authority. The Wet Tropics is one of the most significant ecological treasures in the world—home to ancient rainforests, rare wildlife and deep cultural heritage. It is World Heritage listed. You would think it is pretty obvious that its management should be guided by science and conservation expertise, yet this government has chosen to replace a land management expert and a rainforest ecologist with two new tourism representatives—on a board that already had two members with a tourism background.

They claim this is about balance, but balance already existed. What we are seeing is the deliberate tipping of the scales to prioritise tourism interests over conservation. As a result, there is just now one member of the board with an environmental science background—one member. This is not sound governance. It is a clear signal of where this government's real priorities lie, and it is not with genuinely protecting Queensland's environment. The pattern is clear: a government replacing science with spin, a government of broken promises, a government ignoring expert advice for political gain. Queenslanders deserve better.