




Speech By
Hon. Meaghan Scanlon

MEMBER FOR GAVEN

Record of Proceedings, 12 March 2025

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Member for Macalister; Independent Ministerial Advisory Council

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (2.48 pm): I start by also associating myself with the comments made by the Leader of the Opposition and other members about the member for Macalister. Knowing her, she will be saying, 'Stop talking about me. Get on with it,' so I will.

While Queenslanders stuck together to prepare for and recover from the natural disaster, the LNP were busy cutting—under the cloak of the cyclone. The Attorney-General was very busy on Tuesday and Wednesday. She started the day by axing the Independent Ministerial Advisory Council—a group that was designed to take advice on reforming the criminal justice system and improving support for victims and victim-survivors, particularly in relation to youth crime. The Attorney-General sacked everyone without even the courtesy of meeting with all of those members. They had spent an awful lot of time formulating a plan that was provided to government. Instead of reading that plan and actually consulting with the committee, she decided to sack them all. These are people like: Susan Dennison, who is a highly regarded academic in criminology; Amie Carrington, the CEO of the Domestic Violence Action Centre; Chris Jones, who had hoped to use the insights and empathy from his experience of his close friend Lee Lovell; and Brett Thompson, the CEO of the Homicide Victims' Support Group. This is a group that Voice for Victims called for and the LNP has axed.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the member for Currumbin. She wants me to name all of the people they just sacked. That is what the member for Currumbin wants me to do. Well, I am not going to do that. The member should know the people they sacked.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Order, member for Currumbin!

Ms SCANLON: The Attorney-General basically said to all of these experts, 'Thanks, but no thanks.' These were people who were independently chosen to provide their expertise who probably frustrated the government by providing frank and fearless advice, and because it did not suit those opposite they went, 'Ah, no, we actually don't want to listen to what you have to say.' Frankly, based on the Attorney-General's track record of passing through rushed legislation and botched laws, she is the very last person who should be axing panels that have experts and victim advocates on them.

Not content with getting rid of those experts, while Tropical Cyclone Alfred was approaching the Queensland coast the Attorney-General thought, 'Now is also a great time to meet with the independent Law Reform Commission and tell them to stop working on everything they have been focused on over the last two years as it relates to mining leases.' As the *Courier-Mail* reported and as the Leader of the

Opposition outlined, a landmark review into how objections against new mines are dealt with has been quietly axed by the Attorney-General, just months before a report is due. A whole lot of time and money would have gone into developing those recommendations, yet those opposite have said, 'Ah, we're not interested.'

Ms Boyd interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the member for Pine Rivers. So much for respecting taxpayers' dollars! Even if the Attorney-General takes offence to the fact that we are saying she met with the QLRC during the week that the cyclone was approaching, the decision is still the same, and that is refusing to listen to experts—a theme of this LNP government that is developing. Somehow we are expected to believe that the brains trust of the members for Burdekin, Toowoomba South, Glass House and Kawana are meant to do a better job than the independent Queensland Law Reform Commission.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I will tell you what I was doing on Tuesday. I went to the member for Sandgate's electorate to meet with rough sleepers to make sure they were getting the support they needed.

A government member: Labor's housing crisis.

Ms SCANLON: I take the member's interjection. You are not going to address the housing challenges by getting rid of housing, and that is exactly what the Premier has decided to do by appointing the person who wants to scrap housing in his electorate.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I warn the member for Currumbin under the standing orders.

Ms SCANLON: I was with the member for Sandgate talking to rough sleepers in her community and my community. We were talking to organisations that are providing shelter to people, frankly, because the government had provided effectively no advice to NGOs about what on earth they were supposed to do to prepare rough sleepers. Meanwhile, Peter Dutton was out there filling LNP coffers rather than filling up sandbags and helping rough sleepers. That is the LNP's priority.

(Time expired)