




Speech By
Melissa McMahon

MEMBER FOR MACALISTER

Record of Proceedings, 26 March 2026

ADJOURNMENT

Paterson, Ms K; Paterson, Miss A; Macalister Electorate, Road Infrastructure

 **Ms McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (9.12 pm): I stand here because I have waited all week for any acknowledgement from the government, from the Premier, from any minister or from anyone at all in government of the domestic and violence tragedy that impacted my community just two weeks ago. I stand here tonight to make sure the names of Kate Paterson and April Paterson are acknowledged in this House.

Kate was a teacher at Windaroo State School and this tragedy has had an immeasurable impact on the school community. She had only just returned to work from maternity leave, and there are hundreds of kids who are for the first time in their lives dealing with an unexpected and sudden tragedy involving someone who was so important to them. I also acknowledge her previous work at Kimberley Park State School where she taught my kids. It shows how many lives a teacher's work touches. My thoughts are with her family, her friends and the wider school and teacher community. In Logan it is so connected and so supportive and this one tragedy has affected so many.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Member for Macalister, can I ask you please to assure the House that you have considered the sub judice rule? Can you provide an assurance that none of this is before the courts at all?

Ms McMAHON: Certainly. I have considered sub judice and there is no content with reference to a current matter before the court.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: On the basis of that assurance, you have the call.

Ms McMAHON: It makes no sense for there to be such a tragedy at such a young age. None of it makes any sense. Baby April was not even one year old—forever a baby. Two lives were cut short and we have gone this week without even acknowledging it. Maybe if they had lived in Brisbane rather than the outskirts of Logan—we are often bypassed in Logan, being halfway between Brisbane and the Gold Coast but the people in Logan matter. They matter to us as their elected representatives and they matter to Queensland. It would have been really nice just to be acknowledged—

Ms CAMM: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This matter is before the court. I would seek your ruling because I have concerns as the minister for domestic and family violence that the member in her contribution is walking a fine line with regard to the matters that are before the court and the sub judice rules.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Wait one moment. I will take some advice. Member for Macalister, I understand you are probably moving on from the sensitive matter of contention here. I ask that you be mindful of the sub judice rule in the remainder of your contribution. I acknowledge your input, Minister.

Ms McMAHON: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I will not be speaking about this tragedy any further because, unfortunately, not two days later my community was subject to another tragedy, which has also not been acknowledged in this House. I stood here three weeks ago and spoke about lighting issues at exit 34, that it was a dangerous roundabout and that people would die. Who would know that less than 10 days later we would have a fatality at exit 34? Maybe if this exit was in the minister's backyard we would have got some lighting. The question will be: what is the value of putting in some lighting or repairing it? Will there be money in this year's budget to finally get some lighting, because Logan lives do matter? We stand up for our people in this House and we want that acknowledged.