



Speech By
Sandy Bolton

MEMBER FOR NOOSA

Record of Proceedings, 26 March 2026

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Parliament, Behaviour

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (2.57 pm): During my maiden speech in 2018 I asked everyone to close their eyes and visualise my electorate of Noosa. Today I ask you to close your eyes again and imagine this chamber as one where the people of Queensland and the issues they face are the priority—not the next election, not who is funding you or not getting a win over the other side. Imagine it is just about our fellow Queenslanders. Imagine a chamber free of bullying, denigration and endless blame, a space where respectful, credible and evidence-based debate is held on matters our communities want answers to. Imagine a chamber that understands the only way to remedy the significant issues we confront, whether devastating fuel or house prices, the cost of living or health care, is through collaboration, bipartisan agreements and truth versus politicking. It is about the health and wellbeing of all and decreasing that widening gap where the wealthiest are getting wealthier and our workers are getting poorer. What has been happening is disgraceful.

Just think what that would be like. How proud every single person in this House would feel, where school students can sit in the gallery being inspired instead of confused and embarrassed. Mr Deputy Speaker, can you imagine being an MP who promotes working together versus waging war, where Queenslanders see watching Parliament TV as inspirational and educational versus a joke. This is not a game. It should not be a theatre. Every time we come into this chamber we are dealing with people's lives, their livelihoods and that of our next generations.

The old worn-out strategy of dragging the other side down with slogans that divide, incite and disempower Queenslanders has no place here anymore. No-one wants to hear the endless abuse hurled and the smoke and mirrors used to deflect focus from what is real and important. It is an insult to all we represent. The waste of money and lack of transparency, accountability and representation have become unsustainable and unpalatable, even to traditionally wedded voters as seen in the recent South Australian election.

Just think about what we could do versus what we have become. The French Revolution saw the cutting off of heads as a way to deal with being ignored. Thankfully this era is different. Instead of heads, votes will roll regardless of the words used to justify. Time is ticking. More and more Queenslanders are rejecting what we have become, enabled by a flawed committee system and a political duopoly. They will look to an alternative. What or who will that be? Please now open your eyes. Demonstrate why an alternative is not needed by supporting an independent review of our parliament. Both sides have nothing to lose and everything to gain including bringing integrity back into this House.