




Speech By
Dale Last

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

Record of Proceedings, 31 August 2021

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Member for Mundingburra

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.45 pm): It will not happen again, but, as we now know, it has happened again, and of course I am referring to the member for Mundingburra or, as he is locally known, 'Lights-out Les'. How are the residents of Townsville—the constituents of Mundingburra—expected to have any confidence in that member when within the space of six months he has been involved in his second alteration—an altercation that has led to criminal charges? I will not go into that today because it is still the subject of a matter before the courts.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock and resume your seat while I take some advice. Member, anything that is currently before the courts is subject to sub judice and should not be referred to either directly or indirectly.

Mr LAST: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker; I withdraw. Instead of addressing the crime problem in Townsville, the member for Mundingburra is contributing to it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Resume your seat. Member, that is grossly disorderly. It is breaching standing order 233. I would ask you to withdraw and continue your contribution, but I caution you that continued disorderliness will result in you being sat down.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Under the sub judice rule, I seek your clarification. The member for Mundingburra has previously had a banning notice issued which is not a criminal matter. There is a common assault charge, which is before the courts. Is the member free to talk about the banning notice, which is also subject to the member for Mundingburra which is not a criminal matter? My understanding of the standing orders is that sub judice does not apply to the banning order of the Townsville precinct.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have a view on that. I will confer with the Clerk. The member in his contribution is making a clear linkage between the two, so it would be, as advised, best if the member stayed away from the topic altogether and continued his contribution without breaching the rules around sub judice.

Mr LAST: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. The Premier has a right—

Mr FURNER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In your ruling you made it quite clear that the member had to withdraw his comments. He has failed to take your warning and I think that he needs to follow what your order was in terms of the ruling you made previously.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, did you withdraw?

Mr LAST: For the purpose of the record I will withdraw again. The Premier has a right to be disappointed, but, more importantly, the Townsville community and Mundingburra—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Resume your seat. Member, once again you are straying into a matter that is sub judice. I am going to ask you to resume your seat.