



RACHEL NOLAN MP

Member for Ipswich

Booval Professional Centre
125 Brisbane Rd BOOVAL

PO Box 98
BOOVAL Q 4304

Ph: 3202 3452
Fax: 3202 4778

Email:
ipswich@parliament.qld.gov.au

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NOLAN SUPPORTS CALL FOR PLEDGE TO THE PEOPLE (NOT THE QUEEN)

Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan today supported a public call for Members of Parliament to pledge their allegiance to the people who they represent rather than to the Queen.

“At present when elected, a member of Parliament pledges - *I.. (name).....do sincerely promise and swear (or affirm) that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as lawful Sovereign of Australian and to Her heirs and successors, according to law; and I will well and truly serve the people of Queensland and faithfully perform the duties and responsibilities of a member of the Legislative Assembly to the best of my ability and according to law. So help me God! (omitted if making an affirmation).* There is no mention, in my case, of the people of Ipswich, or of remaining loyal to the things I believe in and have publicly committed to.

Ms Nolan said this was a silly situation which most people, regardless of their views on the Monarchy, would find odd.

“When I go to Parliament I represent Ipswich, I endeavour to stay true to my values and to influence decisions for the good government of Queensland, but when I make my pledge none of these things get a guernsey and instead I have to pledge allegiance to a Queen who has about as much interest in Ipswich as a frog does in nuclear physics.

“The pledge should be changed to reflect MP’s commitment to the people. It could be similar to the oath of allegiance which new citizens make and which pledges - *As an Australian citizen, I affirm my loyalty to Australia and its people, Whose democratic beliefs I share, Whose rights and liberties I respect, And whose laws I uphold and obey.*

“The other great irony here is that God is optional for MP’s. You can either swear an oath on the Bible or make an affirmation. How can it be that God is optional but the Queen is compulsory?

“Swearing allegiance to the Queen is a silly historical anachronism which has no relevance in modern representative democracy. The oath should be changed so that MP’s swear allegiance to the people, not to the Queen.”