



MEDIA RELEASE

DR CRAIG EMERSON

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5 May 2010

QUEENSLAND OPPOSITION MPS: WHO DO THEY STAND FOR?

Federal Opposition Queensland MPs must tell the electorate which party they represent instead of changing their political colours every time they leave the state, Queensland Labor MP and Federal Small Business Minister Craig Emerson said today.

Dr Emerson said the crisis in the Queensland LNP, where MPs have walked away to become independents, confirms that the recently-created LNP is falling apart.

He called on Queensland Opposition MPs in the Federal Parliament to announce which party they would represent at the federal election.

“It is simply not good enough that they call themselves LNP when they are in Queensland then change their jerseys when they cross the Tweed River for Canberra,” Dr Emerson said.

“Voters can’t have confidence in these political chameleons changing their colours whenever it suits them.

“Next we know they will be representing the Sundried Ripened Tomato Party – they cannot expect voters to take them seriously.”

Dr Emerson said prominent Queensland MP George Brandis, recently elected as deputy Liberal leader in the Senate, this morning agreed this was “not a good situation” for his party.

Senator Brandis, speaking on Brisbane ABC Radio 612 with Dr Emerson on Madonna King’s show, described how the LNP was a “fused” organisation which was the Queensland division of the Liberals and an affiliate of the National Party.

“In Canberra the Liberals sit as Liberals and the National Party people sit as Nationals,” Senator Brandis said.

Asked under which political banner he would campaign during the election, he said: “In Queensland all coalition candidates will be under the banner of the Liberal National Party.”

Dr Emerson said today’s events showed the Opposition in Queensland was not “fused” but “confused” and a rabble.

“A party that can’t govern itself sure can’t govern the country,” Dr Emerson said.

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