



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media statement

November 24, 2016

Queensland producers sent to the wall because Senator Pauline Hanson became a politician today: Maranoa MP

QUEENSLAND Senator Pauline Hanson has today let down producers and tourism operators by choosing to paralyse local industries by toying with a tax that's already got the green light from industry bodies.

"Senator Hanson became a Senator by promising the people of Queensland that she wasn't a politician and that she wouldn't play politics, but today Senator Hanson has thrown that out the window," Federal Member for Maranoa David Littleproud said today.

"Senator Hanson betrayed Queensland, instead joining forces with Tasmanian Senator Jacqui Lambie, the Greens and Labor in the Upper House to cut the proposed backpacker tax rate from 19% to 10.5%, in a move that blatantly ignores the pleas of peak representative bodies to pass the proposed tax rate of 19% before Christmas.

"Senator Hanson is now taking her economic advice from Senator Lambie and in my view the impact of their recklessness lies squarely with them, the Greens and Labor.

"I'm in constant contact with producers and they're telling me this is time-critical and they want this bill passed at 19% because the uncertainty will potentially cost producers millions of dollars.

"The Coalition Government consulted widely with industry and collaboratively came up with the 19% tax rate and it has the support of major industry bodies, like the National Famers' Federation."

Mr Littleproud said Senator Hanson's proposed tax drop to 10.5% would mean Australian pickers and packers would pay more tax than their overseas counterparts, which bizarrely contradicts the values Senator Hanson espoused during the election campaign.

"At the end of the day, the most important thing is this sector is given certainty and I think most parliamentarians recognise that Senate Inquiry's report, delivered two weeks ago, confirmed the Coalition Government's reform package should be passed at 19%," he said.

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