

A strong voice for our future

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Lauga calls Landry out on Shoalwater Bay land grab

The Federal Government must stop compulsory acquisitions of properties around Shoalwater Bay or risk the cattle industry and the survival of towns in the area, the Member for Keppel and Assistant Education Minister Brittany Lauga has told Parliament.

In a passionate speech slamming the Federal Government's backflip and "sneaky tactics" two years after a Federal Government pledge to cancel compulsory acquisitions, Mrs Lauga castigated Member for Capricornia Michelle Landry for sitting on her hands while the people in the region suffer an uncertain future.

"It is just over two years to the day since then Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, after intense political pressure and a grassroots campaign led by Marlborough residents, finally backed down on compulsory (property) acquisitions for Shoalwater Bay."

But now, she said, it is all happening again.

"We might have a different Prime Minister, but it is the same disrespect for local communities that we have come to expect from this out of touch LNP government.

"Two years ago Michelle Landry stood in front of the people of Marlborough and promised that there would be no compulsory acquisition.

"Now we find out that not only are they pushing ahead despite that promise, but they are also trying to acquire public land and shut down national parks."

Mrs Lauga said the Federal Government has sought to close Bald Hills Road and Charon Point Conservation Park as part of its land grab to expand the Shoalwater Bay Training Area within the Australia-Singapore Military Training Initiative.

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“Michelle Landry and the Abbott/Turnbull/Morrison government need to immediately rule out any attempt to compulsorily acquire this land.

“The people of Marlborough made it very clear two years ago when the federal LNP government tried to force them off their land. They do not want to see any compulsory acquisition.”

She said Michelle Landry “has serious questions to answer ... to explain why Marlborough and Central Queensland residents have once again been kept in the dark about what the Federal Government is planning for our community”.

Mrs Lauga and Federal Labor candidate for Capricornia Russell Robertson visited the Marlborough region last week, and discussed how Charon Point Conservation Park and the Broadsound are essential to the biodiversity of the region.

“I want to see people continue to be able to camp and fish on the Broadsound and enjoy the diverse ecosystems.”

Mrs Lauga said the Federal Government’s proposal would see an end to these recreational activities and put the environmental values at risk.

“Obviously, Michelle Landry and the LNP have not learnt their lesson and are again trying to push this expansion forward against the wishes of local residents.

“The Federal Government has the power to compulsorily acquire the land but Michelle Landry and the LNP need to rule this option out.

“The Palaszczuk Government will continue to support the Central Queensland community and reject any federal LNP proposal that leads to the permanent closure of Charon Point Conservation Park,” said Mrs Lauga.

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