



# Full Day Hansard Transcript (Legislative Assembly, 10 May 2011, Corrected Copy)

Extract from NSW Legislative Assembly Hansard and Papers Tuesday, 10 May 2011.

## GOVERNOR'S SPEECH: ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

### Third Day's Debate

Debate resumed from an earlier hour.

Mr BRYAN DOYLE (Campbelltown) [6.00 p.m.] (Inaugural Speech): As the member for Campbelltown, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the people of Campbelltown who have placed their trust in me to represent them. Having once been described as the "face of policing" in Campbelltown, I have now become the face of Campbelltown in this Parliament. At the outset I acknowledge the outgoing member for Campbelltown, the Hon. Graham West, who retired from politics before the last historic election. I wish him well in his new career as the Chief Executive Officer of the St Vincent de Paul Society.

As I told the people of Campbelltown during the last election, it was all about leadership. For far too long they had been taken for granted and the term "south west Sydney" was generally used in the media as a by-word for neglect. That neglect has now come to an end and I will ensure that the people of Campbelltown are never, ever, taken for granted again. I know that having our Premier, Barry O'Farrell, leader of the Liberal-Nationals Government, as Minister for Western Sydney means that we have the full support of the new Government. Instead of being neglected, Campbelltown has now become the opal of the south west of Sydney, the benchmark for the best that we have to offer. As the member for Campbelltown, it will be my privilege today to share some stories of the wonderful place that is my home, the great character of the city of Campbelltown and our future direction, and of my debt of honour to my parents, my family and my friends, my Catholic faith, and all those who have helped make the member of Campbelltown who stands before you today.

The Campbelltown and State election was about the need for leadership. Recently, in this very Chamber, I hosted a delegation of our local school leaders from schools such as Thomas Reddall High School, Ingleburn High School, Leumeah High School and Campbelltown Performing Arts High School—and I note we have a representative from St Gregory's high school in the gallery. I outlined to them three aspects of leadership that I considered important throughout the election: values, service and durability. I told them that good leaders must have strong values and personal integrity. That is vital as, if you stand for nothing, you will fall for anything. I told them that leadership must be about service to others lest they fall to the perils of self-interest. I also told them the importance of durability; that they must never, ever, ever give up. It is about making a difference for the better and not accepting indifferent service from people who have a job to provide services to our community.

Madam Speaker, I learned many of these leadership principles from my family and educators, and I know from your background that you would be well aware of the value of educators. I had the great fortune to be raised in a large Catholic family where the concepts of love of God, family and community, and the value of service above self were taught in large slices in the humble surroundings of a suburban family. In my education by the Christian Brothers at St Patrick's College, Strathfield, the motto of "luceat lux vestra"—loosely translated as "let your light shine"—was emblazoned into the hearts of all the boys there who graduated as Catholic men, determined to do and love the right and to make a difference for the better. I am proud to say that that spirit of service remains with me today as the Liberal member for Campbelltown.

These were the leadership principles that I brought to bear upon my policing career at Campbelltown and now as the member for Campbelltown. It was a great privilege to serve my community as a Chief Inspector of Police. I have always maintained that policing was best done for and with the community, not to and against them. I had always been taught the golden rule that you treat others the way that you would like them to treat you. It boils down to respect. My community focus was such that I became known as an officer who cared for his people and ultimately became the face of policing in Campbelltown. Strangely, I was often accused of being more for the community than for the police, but the community are the police and the police are the community.

In that role I was able to improve the relationship between the police and the community through my many personal friendships and community partnerships. I enjoined government departments into these partnerships—some willingly; others not so willingly, but I was more than happy to persuade them. Some of those projects included restoring public order by working with community elders and renewing housing estates, tackling offences like trail bike riding that infringes on the ability of people to live their lives and also riding in public parks, targeting graffiti criminals, supporting the Australian Pacific and Maori Community Services volunteer patrols at

Macarthur Square, and reducing alcohol-fuelled violence. All of those initiatives assisted in improving the life of my community and making a change for the better.

It should be noted that none of these victories would have been possible without the support of our wonderful, professional local media, the *Macarthur Advertiser*, the *Macarthur Chronicle*, and C91.3 FM radio. We are most fortunate to be served by such dedicated and professional local newspapers and radio that just live and breathe Campbelltown. Having served the New South Wales police for 27 years, achieving the rank of Chief Inspector, serving in general duties, public order, detectives, prosecuting, and legal services, spending three years in the great city of Broken Hill, and finally serving my own people of Campbelltown, I saw that there was a need for better representation for Campbelltown in State politics. I could hear the cries from the suburbs as people opened their power bills, contrasted by the silence of the infrastructure projects that never happened.

Such a major career change—which seems to me now as the most senior police officer to have ever entered politics—by a husband and father requires extensive consultation with the family and elders. My daughters Sarah and Lauren were initially quite concerned. After all, they told me, I was well respected as a chief inspector in the community, but they were of the opinion that a career in politics was not so highly regarded. However, in the end, they were satisfied that I could make a difference for the better in politics. My wife, Sharon, took more convincing. As with most serious family discussions, it was continued with a trip to the shops. While purchasing some premium mince from the Rosemeadow butcher, young Nathan the butcher said, "Mr. Doyle, when are you going to run for politics, because I want to vote for you?" My wife, Sharon, concluded that, if Nathan was going to vote for me, I had better start running.

I was then endorsed as the Liberal candidate for Campbelltown and took leave from my policing duties. It was a leap of faith, leaving the security of a lifelong policing career and launching into a political career. I was given little or no chance at all, as the seat had not changed hands for 40 years. I knew it would be a record-breaking task to win the seat, but I always quietly believed that the people of Campbelltown were ready for a change, and that I could better help my community. With my dedicated team of volunteers we planned and started the work necessary to achieve the impossible, and on a very limited budget.

I found that campaigning can improve one's health. I lost about seven kilos while walking on the campaign trail and talking with locals. Better still, my older sister, Karen, who is here tonight, reported that it was having a positive effect, not on my figure but on the election campaign. My niece and god-daughter, Clare, had attended a party where everyone was talking about the "bald man who talks to housing commission people", "Hey, that's Clare's uncle!", and how impressed they were that someone had taken the time to talk with them and to stand up for them. I think it can be understood that the reference to the bald man was to me.

During the campaign I attended another butcher's shop, this time at Ruse, although we have many lovely butcher shops in Campbelltown. Shayne, the butcher there, told me straight up that I was the first politician that had walked into his shop since 1995 and that if he ever saw me again he would be surprised. Further, he told me to tell Barry—I took that as a reference to the now Premier—to "get on with the job" when he became Premier. Two weeks later I returned to the Ruse shops and Shayne was impressed. I then told him I had brought a friend, and in walked Barry O'Farrell, complete with media contingent. While it pleased Shayne, the Sydney media was less impressed that I had taken Barry, the future Premier, to a quiet suburban shopping centre at Ruse. Barry rang me and told me not to worry, that the criticism was a badge of honour and highlighted exactly why it had been the right decision for me to invite him there. I valued his support and decency throughout the campaign.

The end result was that Campbelltown, for so long the neglected seat, became the highest-ranked seat on the pendulum to fall in the election. It was so historic that the political commentators, including Gladys Berejiklian, thought there was a problem with the computer. But no, it was not; a 21.8 per cent swing was in order, and Campbelltown had gone from being neglected to becoming the prized opal, the jewel of the south-west of Sydney. This is highlighted by the fact that the very first community Cabinet meeting of the O'Farrell-Stoner Government will be held at Campbelltown next week—the very first, and in the south-west of Sydney.  
[Extension of time agreed to.]

This demonstrates the importance of Campbelltown, the prized opal of the south-west, and gives long overdue attention to the growing needs of our regional city. When I refer to Campbelltown being the opal of the south-west it is because the people of Campbelltown are the greatest in Australia. We have come from the four corners of the world, but we are proud Australians and Campbelltownians, and we owe no other allegiance. It is important to remember that we all identify as Australian, regardless of our place of birth or heritage. Such a thought process profoundly alters how we think about ourselves and our fellow citizens. While I might have a heritage that includes Irish, English, Scottish and German bloodlines, I am Australian, and so it is for all who hold Australian citizenship, whether by birth or by naturalisation.

My family, too, has significant historical connections with Campbelltown, going back to the initial convict settlement of Campbelltown, an area that has a rich Aboriginal tradition with the Dharawal people. Some of my convict forebears were assigned to Thomas Rose's farm, which is now Rosemeadow. One of them, Thomas Lloyd, had his ticket of leave revoked for harbouring two convicts, presumably mates of his, who had recently absconded from the farm service of John Warby of Leumeah. By handwritten warrant he

was committed to the Hyde Park Barracks, just down the road from here, to be held there at the "pleasure of his Excellency, the Governor". A copy of that historic warrant is proudly on display at the Campbelltown Police Station.

Some of the finest examples of community spirit and citizenship that lives at Campbelltown can be found in our annual festivals, especially the Fisher's Ghost Festival and the Ingleburn Alive Festival. These community celebrations are some of the biggest community festivals in the country, and are the times when we gather to celebrate our shared heritage and look towards the future. Among the wonderful communities of Campbelltown I draw members' attention to the people of Ingleburn. The people of Ingleburn have a long history, which includes having their own local government up until 1948. The brick facade of the council chambers is still proudly on display in the city. When the police station was taken away from Ingleburn, the local community donated and built the Ingleburn Policing Centre to be used by their local police. This generous gesture demonstrated their close relationship with their local police, and I am determined to see that the generosity of those people is recognised.

Another wonderful group of people in our area is the Australian Polynesian elders who make up the Australian Pacific and Maori Community Services. These proud elders have donated their time for many years now to make our community safe. They come from all the islands of the Pacific. I invited these elders into Campbelltown Police Station, where they held their meetings and undertook TAFE training. I am proud of their level of commitment and the high success rate of their academic achievement. They have shared their values of faith, honour, respect and community pride, and as volunteers have freely given to our community. It is my privilege and honour to be their patron.

I must make special comment on one of these elders. I will always remember a farewell morning tea for granddad John Whiu last year, when he commented on the success of our partnerships, how amazing it was that "law and order" had been returned to them, how a senior police officer had walked their streets, and how the community could celebrate with their "favourite chief inspector of police". I never had the benefit of knowing my own grandfathers, but I hope they were a lot like my granddad John Whiu. As the member for Campbelltown, now emerging as the great opal of the south-west of Sydney, I look forward to a bright, vibrant future for Campbelltown as the hub city for the Macarthur region, a destination of choice for residents, businesses and tourism, serviced with effective infrastructure, especially transport, roads and rail that would help the community get on with their lives.

I must express my appreciation to my family and friends for their contribution to the making of the man who stands here before you as the member for Campbelltown. I give thanks to my lovely wife, Sharon, and our daughters Sarah and Lauren, my brothers and sisters John, Karen, Peter and Michelle and the extended Doyle family, who have supported me throughout my policing career and now as the member of Parliament for Campbelltown. They are my inspiration and I will always love them. Being the third of five children there are very few photos of me as a child, but I have made up for that in recent years. My father always told me that a good way to judge a man was by the quality of his friends. Just looking around at my many friends here tonight, from near and far, especially those from my volunteer campaign team, and my fellow members in this Chamber, I consider myself to be a very fortunate man.

I would also like to acknowledge the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and his staff, including the officers present, the Hansard reporters and the security officers. I have always been impressed by their professionalism, impartiality and care for the traditions of our great Parliament. These I have taken on while sitting here in the Chamber, watching and observing prior to being allowed to speak. I am looking forward to speaking here on behalf of my people of Campbelltown. I would especially like to honour my mum and dad, John and Helen Doyle, who have both gone to their eternal reward. They taught me everything I needed to know about our faith in God, selfless love and service. To them I dedicate all the honour of my public service. To the people of Campbelltown, I thank them again for entrusting me to serve them as their local member of Parliament. I look forward to being the most effective member of Parliament that Campbelltown has ever had.