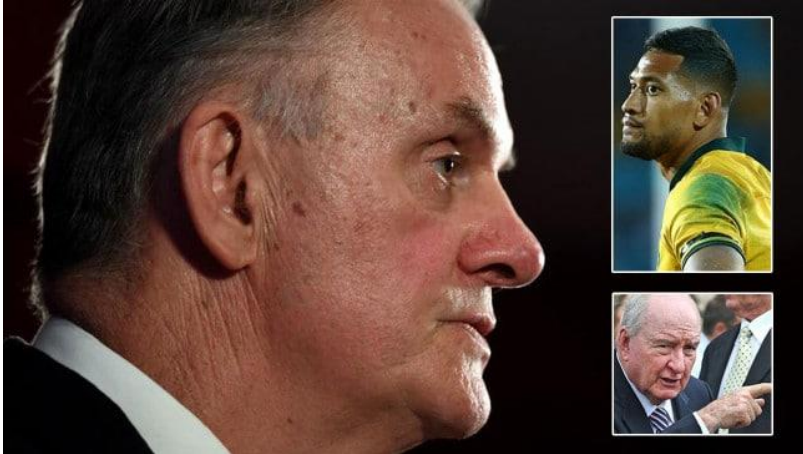


# Mark Latham unleashes in maiden speech: How did our nation come to this?

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NSW One Nation leader Mark Latham's maiden speech to NSW parliament backed Israel Folau (inset, top) and thanked Alan Jones

- **ANDREW CLENNELL**  
NSW POLITICAL EDITOR
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New One Nation NSW MP Mark Latham has railed against the Left and political correctness in his maiden speech in the NSW parliament, accusing people of trying to bring down western civilisation through a campaign of "cultural Marxism".

Mr Latham defended rugby player Israel Folau and said that he would be "moving legislation for the protection of free speech, religious freedom and the privacy rights of workers" in his time in parliament.

He also said he would move legislation allowing nuclear power into NSW and said the federal Opposition spokesman on the environment, Mark Butler, would become the "minister for blackouts" with his pro-renewables approach and compared the push for renewables to a "pagan religion".

Mr Latham, who with a One Nation colleague and several other crossbenchers will hold the balance of power in the upper house in NSW, said he and others were in the "fight of our lives" to bring back the values of Western civilisation.

"Mr President, I stand with Israel Folau. In his own private time away from his job playing football, he's a preacher at his community church and naturally, he quotes the Bible," Mr Latham said.

"I was on Folau's list of sinners"

“He believes, as millions of people have believed for thousands of years, that sinners go to Hell.

“As per his valid religious faith, he loves the sinner but condemns the sin. Yet for his beliefs, his Christianity, he is not allowed to play rugby, to chase the pigskin around the park.

“How did our State and our nation ever come to this? I was on Folau’s list of sinners, more than once actually.

“But as I don’t believe in Hell, there was no way I could take offence. Those claiming outrage have fabricated their position solely for the purpose of censorship. This is not an argument about diversity.

“The Wallabies have no female players, no disabled, no elderly, no middle aged.

“They are selected from a tiny fraction of the young, fit, athletic male population.

“By excluding a committed Christian, they are making their game less inclusive. And as for Folau being a role model for young gay men, one only needs to state this proposition to understand its absurdity.

“Footballers are not role models for anyone, other than in enjoying their sporting ability.

“I say to any young person: if you are looking for guidance and inspiration in life, study Churchill, Lincoln, Reagan and Roosevelt, not Todd Carney. By the way, that’s Ronald Reagan, not Reg Reagan.

“The new serfdom”

“No Australian should be fearful of proclaiming four of the most glorious words of our civilisation: I Am A Christian.

“No one should be sacked by their employer for statements of genuine belief and faith that have got nothing to do with their job.

“The Folau case exposes the new serfdom in the Australian workplace: how big companies, the corporate PC-elites are wanting to control all aspects of their employees’ lives — their religious and political views, how they speak and think, how they behave, even in their own time away from the workplace.

“This is a stunning intrusion on workers’ rights. Yet far from condemning the new serfdom, Labor and the trade unions have been cheering it on.

“As per our One Nation election commitments, I will be moving legislation for the protection of free speech, religious freedom and the privacy rights of workers.”

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“For those of us who believe in the virtues of Western civilisation, who treasure the advances and values of the Enlightenment ... this is the fight of our lives. Our ethos, sir, is simple: No surrender. No surrender in any debate, in any institution, on any front. No surrender in trying to take back our country, That, Mr President, is why I’m here and what I’m fighting for.”

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/mark-latham-unleashes-in-maiden-speech-how-did-our-nation-come-to-this/news-story/a432539f6513a9a119bba178acae408f>