

# Louise Kingston MLC - Talk of Our Shire 25 September 2024.mp3

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**Barry Green:** [00:00:00] That was lighthouse family lost in space on debunker talk of our Shire, sponsored by the Donnybrook-balingup Chamber of Commerce. My next guest is MLC for the South West, Louise Kingston G'day. Louise.

**Louise Kingston:** [00:00:15] Hello. How are.

**Barry Green:** [00:00:16] You? I'm well. Thanks. So, as our elected representative, I think it's important that you have the ability to talk to your constituents about things that you see happening and so that people can feel free to talk to you about their concerns. So the mic's open. What would you like to talk about?

**Louise Kingston:** [00:00:36] Well, firstly I believe you had Russell Broadbent on earlier. Is that correct?

**Barry Green:** [00:00:41] That's correct. And he's a fine, upstanding independent politician.

**Louise Kingston:** [00:00:47] Yes. Like myself. It's interesting how many are ending up going independent. And I think part of that he I believe he was talking about this misinformation bill. And I suppose the question I want to ask is what exactly is it exactly? You know, what is misinformation? Um, you know, we live in a country of free speech where, you know, people should be able to voice their opinions and to, to, to challenge things. Um, so if we get to the stage where we can't do that, um, then that to me is not a free society.

**Barry Green:** [00:01:22] Yeah, it's my take. There's no such thing as misinformation or disinformation. It's just truth and lies.

**Louise Kingston:** [00:01:29] Exactly. And you need to have the ability to be able to challenge that. So if all of a sudden we, you know, misinformation is, is, is thwarted, you know, is is, um, you know, Bill comes out and you can't actually go and research that. I'm a really, really big researcher did a lot of that during Covid as we've you know, we've had that conversation before. Um, and, you know, I was really troubled by a lot of the information that was that was out there. Um, but, you know, it gave me the opportunity to go and have a look at it and say, well, actually, this is my truth and this is what I'm going to stick to. Yeah.

**Barry Green:** [00:02:06] And I've said this on this program before, maybe COVID's been sent to save us because it has exposed the complete overreach of the corporations over our government. And if we believe in the private enterprise free market system, which I do, and I think many people do, uh, you know, we've got to have lots of small businesses, but we so many small businesses are being sort of effectively bought up and shut down by the corporations. So, you know, there's an issue here, I think, Louise.

**Louise Kingston:** [00:02:35] Absolutely. We're a small business owner as well. And, you know, we continue to struggle through the mountain of compliance and regulation. And just this past week, we've seen, you know, which has been raised over and over and over again how much influence companies like Coles and Woolies have and what they were actually doing to the pricing. There's investigation into that at the moment. And you look at it and you think, well, hang on a minute. Small businesses in towns. I

mean, I'm not going to say that Coles and Woolies aren't needed because they definitely are, but not at the expense of small businesses.

**Barry Green:** [00:03:13] But they'll only deal with big businesses. You know, when we bought our farm, 1988, we had ideas of growing food for for Australians and organic. But now the system, it's all stacked against us. So those corporations only want to deal with big businesses. But, you know, if a stable system, a stable economic system needs multiple players at all levels. So we we really don't have a free market system.

**Louise Kingston:** [00:03:39] No, that's exactly right. And, you know, bring it back to that compliance and regulation again. You know, it's a particularly the new industrial relations laws. Um, you know air all of that sort of stuff. It is now beyond, um, the average person to be able to manage that. I was reading a story in last week, Farm Weekly. It was about a lady in Queensland, and she was talking about exactly that, that literally she spends all her time on compliance and regulation and paperwork and, you know, she said it's just impossible for them to manage their business now without external consultants. And that all adds to the cost of everything. We look at a, you know, a cost of living crisis, you know, take that middle level, I call it middle level bureaucracy, you know, the the grey layer, take that out. And all of a sudden, you know, we can all operate again and we can all breathe.

**Barry Green:** [00:04:32] And the thing is, all these regulations are act as a regressive tax on small business because the corporations just appoint somebody to tick the boxes. But it's extending even to community organisations with this new tax thing. So, you know, like Dbkl, we've we've got to look at changing our constitution and all these things to comply. Otherwise we'll end up having to appoint an accountant, which we haven't got the money for. So, you know, does the government really want to support community idea that. Houston, we have a problem.

**Louise Kingston:** [00:05:01] Yes, and I'll bring it back to you. You know, when we had small businesses in towns and, you know, a lot of our kids didn't leave and go to university and get qualifications and things like that. They would actually start those businesses, run those businesses. We had tradesmen and we had, you know, sort of a an economy that that grew itself. But, you know, there's that much pressure on kids these days, you know, to perform academically and to go to university. And then where

do we put them when they come out? They end up in these jobs, you know, just creating complication, compliance regulation for everybody to justify their existence. So, you know, we've got an upside down economy where, you know, it's top down approach rather than bottom up approach. You know, I've said this many, many, many times. We need more of those people at the bottom, the bottom layer and listening. The other day they were talking about CEOs salaries and the I think the highest in the world was 27 million, something like that. But yeah, 27 million a year and the average was 3 million a year. And I looked at that and I thought, now hang on a minute. So that company. So let's use an example. Um, you know, it's company X and the person at the top is earning 27 million. We've got a cost of living crisis, but the person at the bottom can't actually afford to pay, you know, to, to pay for things. They're, you know, on the, on the, um, poverty line. And I looked at it and I thought, that's really just a legalised form of slavery, isn't it?

**Barry Green:** [00:06:32] It is. Absolutely. And, um, Charles Massey, the doyen of regenerative agriculture, who Alannah Mactiernan McTiernan brought to WA in 2018. Yeah. No. Charles. Yeah. Brilliant.

**Louise Kingston:** [00:06:44] Brilliant man.

**Barry Green:** [00:06:44] He talks about change has got to come from the bottom up. It simply can't come from the top down. And and I think that's what's happening. And Russell Broadbent said you know with all the things that are happening take these issues up with your local government because local government is closer to the people. And so this, this, this what Charles talks about, he calls the underground revolution that relates to the soil. Because, you know, the soil is a foundation of our civilization. And so this change is going to have to come from the bottom up. And we talk. People who listen to this show know I often talk about regenerative agriculture, and I've coined the term regenerative media for this new independent media that is evolving to sort of, shall we say, fill the void that's been left by the mainstream media. And so there's so many independent media evolving. A lot of it is online. And so this misinformation bill is a real problem for that. But we've also got the hard copy the Light Australian newspaper and you know, the hard copy. While it's like radios old technology, but there's still absolutely a place for the old technology of radio and print to get around this, this sort of online, because there's a lot of good stuff online, but there's also a lot of bollocks online as well.

**Louise Kingston:** [00:08:00] Absolutely. And once again, I think it comes back to the you know, we're not good communicators. And I think you don't need a misinformation bill if you've got it communicating. And that comes back to debating at school. And I've thought about this long and hard, you know, and I thought, gee whiz, when do we all go wrong in terms of being able to talk to each other? And I sort of traced it back to this and I thought, I reckon that's when it was when we stopped learning how to debate. So recognising that other people have differing opinions, respecting those opinions, being able to have a really strong and robust conversation and then being able to go away and say, well, actually I learnt something from that person today and hopefully they've learnt something from me as well and we continue on as a, as a, you know, fairly peaceful society. Not this, you know, I've got to be right and you're wrong. That doesn't serve anybody I don't believe. Yeah.

**Barry Green:** [00:08:50] I think the issue is everybody has a reason to believe what they believe. And it's only through conversation. You can sort of work your way through that and understand where they're coming from. It's the old story. Two people would be sitting, sitting down together and looking at a number written on the between them, and one sees a six and the other sees a nine. They're both right. But in a democracy, the strength of a democracy is the ability to to work through that and have these conversations. And what you're saying about this debate and leadership, I think so much in the past we've had, you know, young farmers and rural youth and, and and apex and rotary and lions and, and these sort of organizations have provided leadership training. We've sort of seem to have lost our leadership.

**Louise Kingston:** [00:09:41] Yes. And you're right, because central a centralized approach. So you put people in a city, they all live in suburbs. That sort of stuff is the stuff that's lost in communities. We both live in regional Western Australia. You know that those communities are a lot stronger. You see that when there's a crisis, you know, communities come together, they find solutions. Um, you know, and you look at we're coming obviously, into the bushfire season. Um, the more and more complex compliance and regulation on that means less and less volunteers, so less people are engaging. I ran a volunteer resource centre in Manjimup before I went into politics, as part of the community Resource centre there. What wonderful institutions they are that government just, you know, sort of nobbled all the time, um, woefully underfunded, you

know, they're expected to do so much with so little. Um, and they are the they are the hubs of the town. And what we found was, you know, people just want to come and volunteer and enjoy it. But the more compliance and regulation that there is, the less enjoyment there is. Absolutely. So, you know, people go, oh, I'd rather just sit at home, you know, watching the television, you know, and then they're isolated. So then you've got, you know, the issues that surround that sort of thing, Mental health issues. So if we could just make the world a lot simpler and we could actually have some fun, I think that's where we've gone wrong. You know, in a good laugh. And Australians were well known for that. But now, you know, it's sort of you speak to people and they're just so ground down by everything that, yeah, we've got to find better ways to do it.

**Barry Green:** [00:11:17] Yep. So we'll, we'll play a few sponsor messages, Louise, and come back and continue this conversation.

**Sponsor Message:** [00:11:26] You're listening to Donnybrook-balingup Community Radio and we're proudly supported by Burnbrae, Olive farm, MPM concreting, Donnybrook, IGA and the Fine Timber Company. DBCR are your community radio.

[00:11:44] Hey mom, what a bunfight! You little rascal! Come here.

**Sponsor Message:** [00:11:50] What was in that? It stinks. Uh, the water tank is empty again. All I could find was old milk. I'm sorry. It's okay. I know a guy.

**Sponsor Message :** [00:12:02] Never fear. Blockie's here when you need fresh water for your tank, Pool or dam call. Blocky from Southwest Water Cottage. Or go to Southwest Water Cottage.

**Barry Green:** [00:12:11] station sponsor. Southwest water cottage. That was Simon and Garfunkel at the zoo. My guess this morning is Louise Kingston, MLC for the southwest. Um, so at the zoo, you got a bit of a zoo in Parliament. Sometimes all sorts of different ideas going around there. Louise.

**Louise Kingston:** [00:12:33] Yes, absolutely. And I think this, this term has been really challenging, even for those that have been in Parliament for a long time, because with a big majority comes big responsibility. And we've seen many of the of the bills that have

been presented and subsequently passed rammed through many of them are not are not in the best interests of the people of Western Australia, and there's nothing that anybody can do about it. You know, we've fought hard. All of those in opposition have tried to to raise some of the issues that are going to be problematic with some of these bills. And I'll, I led on the firearms bill and continue to speak out against it. And, you know, you get the media, you know, um, what's the naming it up. And the government, you know, playing into their, into their, you know, leftist ideology that, you know, somehow questioning the firearms bill was going to make people less safe. No, actually, your firearms bill is actually going to make people less safe because it doesn't actually work. And that's going to be the problem with it. You know, people that contacted me, thousands and thousands and thousands, you know, a petition that raised the most signatures ever, um, in the history of, of of the the West Australian government, you know, West Australian Parliament. And they didn't listen. They just didn't listen. I proposed, I think it was 22 or 24 amendments in the end. Um, sensible, workable amendments to make it, you know, a lot better piece of legislation. That's what we're meant to do in the upper house. We called the House of review. Um, and they, um, they guillotined debate after I think clause. What did we get to. I think that clause for, you know, biggest bill, um, massive great big bill, over 400 clauses in it.

**Louise Kingston:** [00:14:24] And that's as far as they allowed us to get. They've just guillotined a number of others. Um, and, you know, important bills that needed to be debated properly. Um, and, you know, they've got a whole heap of, um, that they want to get through before the before we rise before the election. And the same thing is going to happen to them. So they're just not getting the scrutiny that that those that legislation deserves. And the people of Western Australia deserve for us to be able to, um, to, to in opposition, argue those bill bills and ensure that they can be better. We have a legislation committee. There was no reason why that firearms bill couldn't have gone to the legislation committee to be checked properly to to fully engage and consult with people. You know, the the consultation was so short. People just did not have a chance to actually put in a proper submission, but they still received, you know, thousands and thousands and thousands of submissions into this bill. So that's an example of of poor government. But, you know, 2021, we had a very unusual situation. The people of Western Australia. Um, you know, made a decision based on, once again, you know, keeping the community safe. We could argue that that wasn't the the actual, you know, reason for what was going on. Um, but, you know, next year, in 2025, hopefully people

will engage a lot more. They will check their candidates, they will find out what they stand for. They'll ensure that the the views that they have are represented in candidates. And that's very, very important. Yeah.

**Barry Green:** [00:15:57] And the gun thing, it's such an emotive issue when you see these big, you know, mass shootings in America. But we haven't had them here. And we you know, I don't remember when the last somebody died of a gun, but people die of cars. But we don't buy cars, ban cars. But, um, from what I can make out, most of these big shootings, which are horrific, the people involved are on antidepressants. So it's a current theme of the pharmaceutical industry.

**Louise Kingston:** [00:16:24] Yeah. It's very interesting you should raise that because like I was talking about before, you know, I'm a I'm an avid researcher and looking at, um, you know, some of the, some of the things that have happened over the years. And I'll bring it back, you know, talking about compliance and regulation, one of my, my biggest issues, um, you know, and you just, you end up miserable trying to navigate it so, you know, making the world a simpler place, better nutrition, you know, a lot of lot of our issues around inflammation, you know, um, we know now that mental health issues are related to the to the gut brain. And, you know, we know about the brain brain and the gut brain. And if they're not working together and your gut brain is not working because you've got a poor diet, you've got a much, much higher chance of having mental health issues.

**Barry Green:** [00:17:09] Well, that's really, really timely when you look at in America. Robert Kennedy junior, standing up alongside Donald Trump without getting into the politics politics of it. Robert Kennedy Jr is saying that America is now spending five times as much on chronic disease as it does on the military. And the large part of that is these oil seeds that are, you know, make up an increasing proportion of the diet. These ultra processed foods. And he specifically said this is due to corruption in the Food and Drug Administration. I didn't say that this has been said by a, you know, a presidential candidate in America. And from a Democrat standing alongside a Republican. Really interesting time in history, Louise.

**Louise Kingston:** [00:17:55] Absolutely. We're farmers. We're chemical free farmers. And, you know, we bought a very degraded farm, and we've brought it back ever so



slowly. And, you know, it's just magic to watch, um, to watch you be able to do that based on you were talking about Charles Massey before, based on his principles of regenerative agriculture. And if you look back in time, you know, the idea behind this was to be able to produce all this food, you know, to save the rest of the world. Um, we haven't saved the rest of the world, you know, we've still got even in our own country. You know, we've got we've got massive amounts of disadvantage and dysfunction and, you know, the rest of the world, we've still got starving children that that really should be where we start. You know, it should be. Once again, we go back to it's bottom up, not top down, you know, how do we help these people regenerate their environments and be able to farm better and feed their people better?

**Barry Green:** [00:18:51] Well, that's exactly the message that former Governor General Michael Jeffries is putting as part of the soils for life organization. I interviewed him in 2019 and played that program recently. So this is about regenerative agriculture. And, as Charlie says, regenerative agriculture. Charles Massey, that is that's the answer to so many problems. And as I've said before, I like to think Community Radio and the new independent media is regenerative media. Um, it's great to be able to talk to you, Louise. I look forward to talking to you again and other all other candidates in the upcoming state election. I think it's really important that politicians, whatever side of the debate, have the opportunity to speak freely. That's what the democracy is for. That's what the Anzacs fought for, and that's what we need to keep on. Keep in mind.

**Louise Kingston:** [00:19:45] Absolutely. Thank you for having me again. And yeah, look forward to talking to you again. Closer to the election.

**Barry Green:** [00:19:51] Okay.