

Pauline Hanson to push for ban on new mosques, royal commission into Islam

Annika Smethurst, National politics reporter, Herald Sun, July 4, 2016 10:00pm
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ONE Nation leader Pauline Hanson will push for a royal commission into Islam, claiming it is not a religion of peace but a “political ideology”.

The outspoken senator-elect, who became a household name for her anti-Asian rhetoric, has also called for the government to end Muslim immigration and ban all new mosques.

“You can’t deny the fact that in these mosques they have been known to preach hate towards us,” she said yesterday. “It’s not me, it’s our society that are on the streets protesting against the building of mosques.”

Ms Hanson’s One Nation party, which is on track to secure a handful of seats in the Upper House, also wants to ban the burqa and niqab in public places, and has called for a net zero immigration - policy.

“If we have 120,000 leave our shores every year, you replace those. But we should have a say in who actually comes into our country,” Ms Hanson said..

During a fiery interview in Queensland yesterday, Ms Hanson also lashed out at reporters accusing them of “having a go” at her for standing up for her country. The anti-immigration campaigner said she was “not just on about Islam” and would also push for a royal commission into the banking sector and reforms to the family court. “We have families that are losing their family homes, their properties, by the banking sector that I believe needs a full investigation into it.”

Ms Hanson, who is Canberra-bound for the first time in almost two decades, identified foreign ownership as a “big issue” and said “the government has to stop that”. “I’ll be speaking out very, very strongly against that,” she said. “We’ve got to stop the ownership of our prime agricultural land, our dairy industries, farming sector.”

She said she was “not sold” on climate change and would also prefer a referendum rather than a plebiscite on same-sex marriage.

One Nation’s NSW Senate candidate, Brian Burston, is likely to be elected and was just as outspoken yesterday.



Pauline Hanson at her post-election party. Picture: Liam Kidston

He said Pauline Hanson's One Nation was "the silent majority" and would give a voice to Australians "too scared" to speak up.

"You can't have a beer, you can't have a smile, the (Muslim) women have to be covered up like a tent; why do you think we have so much support ... people are very worried and we want to protect our own people and make decisions that are for the good of Australia," Mr Burston said.

In the past, both Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Labor leader Bill Shorten have criticised Ms Hanson's policies. They are yet to contact her, despite phoning other members of the crossbench. She said she was happy to work with either leader but admitted, "I don't particularly like either of them".

Yesterday, Mr Shorten said the Coalition's Senate voting reforms and double-dissolution gamble had "made a bad situation worse". He said it was "farcical" that the changes could result in "two or three One Nation senators in the Senate".