

Spokesperson for Australian Community Media, publisher of the Northern Daily Leader:

The Northern Daily Leader's initial coverage of Barnaby Joyce's Tamworth press conference was removed from online after his office advised that his use of the phrase "she's out" was not meant to be taken literally and he was not referring specifically to a woman.

His comments were reviewed, the potential for misinterpretation was identified and the Leader decided to take the Deputy Prime Minister at his word that he was using a colloquial expression.

Our journalist tweeted a clarification, quoting a spokesperson for Mr Joyce: "He used the term 'she's out' in a gender neutral way like the cricket term 'she's out'. Similar saying as 'cat's out of the bag'."

The Northern Daily Leader, usually well versed in its local Member's beguiling vernacular, regrets the misinterpretation.