



Speech by

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PARLIAMENT HOUSE SECURITY; PUBLIC SERVICE VERS

Miss SIMPSON (Maroochydore—NPA) (7.04 p.m.): I wanted to speak tonight about the potential impact of 2,000 jobs being lost from the Public Service in Queensland and to ask the government what this means for the Sunshine Coast. We do not want to see a loss of jobs, particularly given the fact that we have such a high unemployment rate on the Sunshine Coast and that we need the support of services.

However, first I want to address a matter which has been drawn to my attention and about which I am most concerned: the security breach of the parliamentary complex today. Frankly, I am quite angry to think how easy the security of this complex could be breached. I note that the Speaker said on television that security was adequate, but I urge the Speaker—and I will certainly be writing to him—to follow up this matter, because if security was so easily breached it is not adequate. In this instance the intruder may not have been threatening, but it has highlighted how easily security can be breached. That should be ringing alarm bells in this place about the need to overhaul security.

I would like to think that we still live in the sort of place where we can leave our doors unlocked and where it is safe to walk down the streets late at night, but that is not the case. There is also a very special place that the parliament plays in the life of Queensland. Unfortunately, like other public buildings, parliament does require adequate security for all members, regardless of their political backgrounds, so that they know they can undertake their work in this place and so that staff also can undertake their work without the threat of an unwanted intruder who may have different intentions from the one who intruded today. There must be a security overhaul and review so that all parliamentarians know that this place is secured in an adequate way and so that they can without fear or favour get on with their job of representing the people of Queensland.

In regard to the announcement by the government that up to 2,000 jobs—and possibly more—will be slashed from the public sector, I call on the state government to reveal where these jobs are going from. We know that in an area like the Sunshine Coast—and certainly in the electorate of Maroochydore, where unemployment approaches 13 per cent or 14 per cent—there are great concerns about the impact of the loss of those jobs in government services. We know that currently most of the district's services are based in the Maroochydore electorate, but private enterprise, being the primary creator of jobs, needs adequate services to get on with the job. We know that the public needs those services, too.

As mentioned by my colleagues, the police need good administrative staff so that they can be out on the beat in the knowledge that there are personnel at the station doing the paperwork. That is practical administration. But where are the jobs going? Do not slash them from regional Queensland. We do not want to see the government slash those jobs that support the good work of the front-line workers, because we need those jobs.
