



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR INALA

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FEDERAL LIBERAL-NATIONAL COALITION

Ms PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (12.14 pm): Yesterday Mr Howard held his campaign launch in Brisbane. He talked about the strength of the coalition team. Let us have a look at this team. Exhibit A is the Deputy Prime Minister, Mark Vaile, whose best effort as nursemaid to the dying federal National Party this campaign has been to don a hat backwards and pretend to be a skater. What a genius! What a contributor! What a humiliation that this is what that once-great party has sunk to.

Exhibit B is the Treasurer and chief Howard hater, Peter Costello, the man who would be Prime Minister but who is so weak and craven that he could never muster enough ticker for a challenge. This man is himself reason enough not to vote Liberal because Australia cannot afford such a spineless leader.

Exhibit C is Alexander Downer, Australia's worst Liberal leader ever—yes, even worse than the member for Moggill—and now the coalition's attack spaniel who deigns occasionally to throw a barb from the heights of his ivory tower. This man, best known for wearing fishnet stockings, is already prepared to desert the ship to be Leader of the Opposition in South Australia. I, for one, wish him the same level of success he previously enjoyed in that role federally.

Exhibit D is punch-drunk Tony Abbott. The less said about the man the better because he says it all himself really. At least he turned up on time! Finally, Exhibit E is Malcolm Turnbull, who is already skulking about in the shadows after the Liberal Party leadership. To Peter Costello I say 'look out'. This surely does not sound like a team built on strength and unity. It sounds like a tired, divided rabble on a rudderless ship that is badly listing to the extreme right. No wonder they are so out of touch that they thought they could force so-called WorkChoices on an unwilling community.

Mr Howard said yesterday, 'I want to tell you why I want to be Prime Minister of this country again. I want to share with you my hopes and my dreams for a better future.' Yes, a better future in retirement. But how long will Mr Howard be Prime Minister? Six months, nine months, one year or two years? He will not tell the Australian people—

Ms Jones: Eight more days.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right; it could be eight more days. Kevin Rudd wants to talk about the future. Unlike Mr Howard, Mr Rudd as leader would be part of that future and be there for the long haul. Mr Howard has said that working families have never been better off. How can he state that working families have never been better off when we have interest rates that have now increased six times since the last election—six increases in a row and five since the introduction of the hated WorkChoices. Petrol and grocery prices continue to soar. Families in my electorate are struggling to make ends meet, but this is not the case just in my suburbs. It is having a huge impact not just in the outer suburbs of Brisbane but in the regions and in western Queensland where both petrol and grocery prices are so much higher.

Federal Labor has practical proposals which include appointing a petrol commissioner to help the ACCC crack down on petrol price gouging and better monitoring of grocery prices and child-care costs. On education, Kevin Rudd has a plan for an education revolution, providing \$500,000 and \$1.5 million to each

and every state, Catholic and independent secondary school for trades training centres. This is exactly what the doctor ordered for Glenala State High and builds on the Bligh government's plans for the school campus.

As part of the Labor plan for an education revolution, Kevin Rudd has also committed to providing extra financial assistance to build additional child-care centres on primary school grounds and other community land in partnership with child-care providers. The total investment would be \$200 million.

On Sunday, 4 November Mark Vaile unveiled a major announcement in relation to south-east Queensland road funding. The problem was that most of it had already been announced. It appeared that the launch occurred somewhere around Mount Coot-tha, judging from the backdrop, and the usual suspects were there. There were not just one or two, but I can recall the entire television screen was obscured by sitting Liberal members. The member for Blair was there; the member for Petrie who obviously travelled down from Redcliffe was there; the member for Bowman was there; the member for Moreton was there; and the member for Longman, who obviously travelled down from Caboolture, was there. But I do not recall seeing the sitting member for Ryan there.

Mr Reeves interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. Nor do I recall seeing the member for Moggill there. Obviously they were missing in action, or perhaps their views on the Ipswich Motorway have simply been ignored and signalled by their absence or their lack of willingness to be in the camera focus.

The Howard government has simply not done enough. It has had 11 years to fix the problems on the Ipswich Motorway. In the midst of Brisbane' surging economy and massive growth, the Howard government has 11 years of wasted time and wasted opportunity. Now we see the biggest election spending blitz by the coalition in any election campaign. Already economists are predicting that this huge spending spree will fuel inflation and drive up interest rates even further. We cannot trust Liberals to deliver because they do not believe in government support for big infrastructure projects. On 24 November Queenslanders will have their chance to have their say.

Time expired.