




Speech by

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MEMBER FOR INALA

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NEWMAN GOVERNMENT

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.17 pm): Another week, another glimpse into the heartless abyss that is the LNP government. Another round of nonanswers. Another atrocious display by a Premier who promised to behave with dignity and with grace and with humility but now behaves in a manner which is simply the polar opposite. Another week in which thousands who are on the chopping block, whose livelihoods are at stake, are asked yet again to participate in a cruel game of 'wait and see' before they are dumped on the unemployment queue. Another week of broken promises. Another week of slash and burn. Another week of this government letting down the Queenslanders it was elected to represent and protect.

What we have seen this week once and for all is the black heart of the LNP—the disturbing, gruesome core of a government which in four short months has betrayed Queenslanders, has taken the trust placed in it and thrown that trust to the wind. But not only has it abused this trust; today we received a true insight into this Premier when he took things a step further and rubbed their noses in it. This morning in this place the Premier used an analogy when he described his full-scale slash and burn policy against the public sector, and it was amongst the most offensive things I have ever heard. I am not going to repeat the words he used, but frankly I had difficulty believing these words were coming from the mouth of our own state Premier. His analogy equated public sector workers with waste that needs to be swept away, and that places this Premier firmly at a new level—in the gutter.

It was astonishing in its heartlessness but typical of what we have come to expect from this government. This is a government and a Premier that continue to delude themselves that they are doing the right thing, that they are living up to expectations and continuing to get a pat on the back from the same public they are absolutely now deceiving. But no matter how many times the Premier tells himself and tells us that Queenslanders continue to congratulate him, the cold, hard truth lies in what the public actually now thinks of him. Just this morning the results of a new poll tell that story. The poll by ReachTEL focuses on the key electorates of Sandgate, Townsville and Brisbane Central, and it does not make pretty reading for the Premier and his LNP members. It shows that his members are not listening and they are refusing to listen. It shows that their constituents are dissatisfied, angry and extremely disappointed by this government. This government needs to do better. It must do better, and we know that the budget is going to bring heartbreak and heartache to many.

(Time expired)