




Speech by

Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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NEWMAN GOVERNMENT, PERFORMANCE

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.39 pm): The appalling soap opera that is the LNP government continues to roll along with a daily dose of denial, scandal, infighting and blame shifting that, quite frankly, on occasion defies belief. Over the past six days we have seen this government reveal its true colours. We have seen a senior minister deny any wrongdoing only to resign a day later when it became apparent that the truth was about to be revealed. We have witnessed the Premier initially support and defend that same minister only to change his tune within 24 hours.

Mr Johnson: At least he resigned. None of your mob ever resigned—should've done.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: We have seen another minister attempt to dodge and weave away from the sorts of allegations that have cost her cabinet colleague his job only to leave important questions unanswered and issues critical to the very heart of accountability made light of.

Government members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Queenslanders should be under no illusion. While this daily soap opera may be irresistible, providing them with some entertainment every night with a new instalment on the six o'clock news, this is an atrocious way to run government and an atrocious way to run Queensland. These ministers and the Premier clearly do not consider matters of accountability to be paramount. They need look no further than their ministerial colleague the former public works minister, who also clearly considered these matters unimportant. That has resulted in him falling on his sword but only after making the outrageous claim that the responsibility of a minister's office is not with the minister at all but with their staff.

It is critical that ministers of this government keep accurate, up-to-date, truthful records of whom they are meeting with in their lobbyists register. Why? It is simple. It is the job of the lobbyist to approach government with one clear aim: to achieve gain for their clients, often financial. These ministers are the decision makers. They are the people who sit around the cabinet table. They are the people Queenslanders have entrusted to look after their interests and so far they have all been proved to be a miserable failure.

Government members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Cunningham): Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: We on this side of the House are not the decision makers. We do not sit around the cabinet table.

Government members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Look at this rabble. Look at you all. You are a disgrace!

Mr Crandon: You're a disgrace!

Ms PALASZCZUK: We do not sit around the cabinet table. What we do is ensure that those people who are sitting around the cabinet table remain accountable. That is the function of opposition.

Government members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: We take it very seriously. This government can look forward to our continual monitoring of this daily soap opera. It can be assured that we take our job extremely seriously, and we will keep each and every one of you accountable in this House day in and day out.

(Time expired)