


Speech by

Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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NEWMAN GOVERNMENT, PERFORMANCE

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.41 am): I think what we have seen, as evidenced by the government today, is no positive plan for Queensland. There is no future vision for Queensland. What we have definitely seen is a series of instances which can only be described as the season of discontent.

Over the last few days we have seen some dramatic events in this state. First of all, we have seen the member for Condamine, previously a member of the LNP, leave the LNP because he does not believe that his views are being listened to. We have also seen the member for Yeerongpilly express some concerns in relation to matters for his constituency where he is essentially saying that he is concerned that the government is not listening to him.

Can I make it very clear that as I have travelled across the state—and I have just recently come back from visiting Gladstone; I was in Rockhampton last week and I have been to Townsville—I have found that there is a sea of discontent out there. The people of Queensland are not happy with the direction of this government. It is about time that this government seriously focuses on governing and not on the soap opera that they have been able to deliver to Queenslanders over the past four to five months.

Every day Queenslanders are waking up to a brand-new episode. This is not a weekly soap opera; it is a daily soap opera. We just do not know what is coming next. I think it is about time that the Premier showed real leadership and set out very firmly what his vision is for this state. This is what Queenslanders want. Queenslanders want to know what this government is delivering on. What does this government stand for?

I get back to my travels. As I have been travelling around this state people have been expressing to me deep regret about the direction of this government. I have recently been to Mount Isa and Gladstone. The mayors of both places expressed to me their concern that none of the Royalties for the Regions money has come to them. I met with Councillor Jenny Hill, the mayor of Townsville, on Thursday night. Not one of her proposals for Royalties for the Regions was accepted.

This is a government that wanted to empower local governments. I have time and time again heard the Minister for Local Government say, 'We are giving back power to local governments.' But three mayors have been denied money from this government for the projects that they have put forward. How can we neglect the economic powerhouses of Mount Isa and Gladstone and not give them money for their regions that is needed?

Those opposite may think they are on the right path, but I do not think they are putting this state back on track at all. Queenslanders out there are disappointed. They are disappointed by what they are hearing from this government. They are very very concerned about the jobs cuts. I will not go into that as that is the subject of a motion before the parliament.

I have decided to give the Premier a Christmas present. I have a Christmas present that I would like to hand to the Premier, so I will table it.

Tabled paper: Bundle of documents including extracts from the *Courier-Mail* [[1710](#)].

Let me go through what is in the Christmas present. It is a series of wrappings that I think the Premier can use for his Christmas presents. I think it is worthwhile recapping the year that has been the LNP government. Let us start with David Gibson. He was the first ministerial resignation.

The next one is public enemy No. 1.

Mr STEVENS: I rise to a point of order, Madam Speaker.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Leader of the Opposition, there is a point of order.

Mr STEVENS: The use of posters and placards has been—

Ms PALASZCZUK: Madam Speaker, they did this in the last parliament.

Madam SPEAKER: Leader of Government Business, take your seat. The member can speak from the items she has. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Who can forget the headline in the *Fraser Coast Chronicle* 'Tin Man Ted'. This is about the Lazy Acres Caravan Park. Disappointment once again for the people up there.

We cannot forget this one. We know that the Attorney-General likes his fairytales. He has been compared to Pinocchio. That is another one. Then we have the three members for Townsville. Who can forget the 'three monkeys' in relation to the Health cuts. They were not prepared to actually speak to the media.

We have then had the interactions of Mr Clive Palmer. How can we forget the showdown between the Premier and Mr Palmer. We know where Mr Palmer is now. He has been ostracised and banished from the LNP. He might come back when Lawrence Springborg is the Premier. We will wait and see in relation to that matter.

This one has to be my favourite—'Cuts both ways'. I cannot refer to the person's name because he is currently before the Ethics Committee. Then we have another one. This relates to a minister—and I will not reflect on the minister at the moment—'Time for a break'. We know who that one refers to.

There is another wrapping that the Premier may like to use for his Christmas presents. Most recently, we have had two front pages for the former Minister for Housing and Public Works. We have to make sure we have the second one as well.

Just recently we have had a member of their own team express dissatisfaction. We have had a member of their own team who has decided to join the Katter party. How can we forget the front page of the *Sunday Mail*—'Mr Party Hopper'. The piece de resistance, which was the front page today, 'New MP weighs future'. I have not seen so many front pages in such a long time.

Mr Cripps: Yes, you have!

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, I have not. I have never seen so many front pages. We have a great Christmas present for the Premier. He can peruse those over Christmas and reflect upon them. I think it is a good opportunity for each member of this House to reflect on something the Premier said very clearly on election night. That was that he would govern with humility, grace and dignity. I am afraid that in the eight months since the election I am yet to see any of those characteristics displayed by this government. I am yet to see any display of humility. I am yet to see any display of grace. I am yet to see any display of dignity.

Government members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order, members!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Madam Speaker, it is obvious that I am hitting a nerve with members of the government.

Mr Cripps: Haven't seen any apology from you either about the crippling state of our finances. You were in the cabinet.

Madam SPEAKER: Minister for Natural Resources.

Ms PALASZCZUK: If you want to stand up and do an MPI, please stand up and do an MPI, Minister. Please stand up if you want to. Then we saw the extraordinary decision today to move the member for Gaven from the chair of the committee—

Mr STEVENS: Madam Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is a matter of public importance.

Mr STEVENS: I have taken some advice in relation to a matter of privilege arising out of this matter. The opposition leader is impugning the reputation of the Ethics Committee—

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, I am not.

Mr STEVENS:—in relation to comments about the leadership of that Ethics Committee and the movement of—

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, I am not. I want to know why—

Mr STEVENS:—committee chairs.

Madam SPEAKER: I would ask the Leader of the Opposition to be careful not to impugn the reputation of the members of the Ethics Committee and imply bias by members. I remind all members to be careful, particularly as the Ethics Committee is a semijudicial body. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. That is why when I spoke in the debate earlier I wanted a clear explanation from this government about why the changes were made today. We also know that the member for Gaven has been expressing his discontent with this government in relation to the cruise ship terminal on the Gold Coast. We know that this party does not tolerate dissent. Why is this government not listening to its backbenchers? Why is this government not listening to the views of the community?

This is an opportunity over the Christmas break for members to go back to their electorates and listen to the views of their constituents. There are people out there who are hurting. There are people out there who are not going to enjoy a good Christmas. There are people out there who have had their services cut. There are students with a disability who will not be able to get the care that they need over the Christmas holidays. These are the issues that you should seriously consider when you come back to this House next year, because a healthy democracy means that people can express their views, that people can make their views heard in this House and not to have debate shut down.

In conclusion, I know that there may be some people who may be off the Premier's Christmas card list this year. I do not think Clive Palmer will be receiving a Christmas card. I do not think Ray Hopper will be receiving a Christmas card. And it is yet to be seen whether or not the member for Yeerongpilly will be receiving a Christmas card. But let's go into the Christmas season with reflection and come back next year and show the humility, dignity and grace that Queenslanders deserve. Queenslanders did not vote for this soap opera. Queenslanders voted for good government, and that is what Queenslanders deserve. They deserve better than what they have been confronted with over the last eight to nine months.

(Time expired)