



Speech by

## Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard Wednesday, 28 November 2012

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### RICHLANDS-SPRINGFIELD RAIL LINE; MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS

**Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (12.54 am): The construction of the rail line to Springfield that was planned, funded and started by the former Labor government is making good progress and is on track. The Richlands to Springfield project will see a 9.5 kilometre dual track rail line built from Richlands to Springfield and two train stations constructed, one at Springfield and one at Springfield Central. It is estimated that this \$475 million rail and road project will create some 3,200 jobs during construction. I also recall that in around 2006 I was with the then minister for transport to turn the sod on the construction of the Richlands train station. So it is great to see that this construction is well underway and that the LNP government is supportive of this project.

When the rail line opens in late 2013, it will help reduce traffic congestion on the busy Centenary Highway. For example, one six-carriage Queensland Rail train can carry around 750 people, taking approximately 625 cars off the road. But it is not just people living at Springfield who will benefit from this rail line. The train line runs both ways. People working in Springfield and students at the USQ Springfield campus will be able to catch a train to their destination instead of catching the 535 bus.

On another matter, in a question to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads on 1 November 2012 I said—

I now table a copy of a letter received by my office yesterday which indicates that the transport minister, unlike other ministers, is refusing to release details of his diary and the people he has met with.

I would like to clarify the record to correct any misunderstanding that may have resulted from my statement. Firstly, the letter was from the delegate of the minister who had been appointed by the minister under the RTI Act. The Acts Interpretation Act provides that any function performed by a delegate is taken to have been performed by the delegator and the minister's office was involved in the process.

The delegate indicated that they met with the minister's chief of staff to discuss the—

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I rise to a point of order.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition—

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** However, the letter—

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I believe the—

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:**—to the minister's delegate who published it—

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order! Member—

**Ms PALASZCZUK:**—indicated that was the case.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, I called order and you kept talking over me.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am sorry, Madam Speaker.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Madam Speaker, I believe the honourable member is referring to matters that she herself referred to the Ethics Committee. I would suggest that you rule what she is saying completely out of order.

**Mr EMERSON:** I rise to a point of order. Madam Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition was then referring to a matter that I think you told parliament earlier this week had been referred to the Ethics Committee and you made it very clear that no comment should be made about that. I think it is a complete contempt of you—

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Madam Speaker, I am merely clarifying the record.

**Mr EMERSON:** The Leader of the Opposition was in contempt—

**Ms Palaszczuk:** You're allowed to do that at any opportunity.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order! Leader of the Opposition, if this was to do with the RTI issue that has been referred to the Ethics Committee and in regard to the matter that has just been raised, I have clearly reminded the House that those matters are not to be referred to in the House. They are not to be referred to in the House when there is an issue of referral.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I apologise. It was a misunderstanding on my part. I thought I was able to clarify the record.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Not while there is a matter that is before the Ethics Committee.

**Mr EMERSON:** Madam Speaker, your ruling is very clear. The Leader of the Opposition has been in this House for many years. Clearly, her actions tonight were a complete contempt of you as Speaker. It was a deliberate attempt to clarify the record when she knows that her comments, which I wrote to you and said were a deliberate misleading of the House and be referred to the Ethics Committee—

**Madam SPEAKER:** We also will not enter into a debate about the matter. I will consider this issue.

**Mr SORENSEN:** I rise to talk about prostate cancer statistics in line with the month of Movember—

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Sorry, Madam Speaker. There was still some time on the clock and I am happy to keep talking about transport issues.

**Madam SPEAKER:** I apologise. There was about a minute on the clock. With respect, Leader of the Opposition, can you please in that time not refer inappropriately to matters that have been referred. I will consider the issue that has been raised in regard to that breach.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Excuse me, Madam Speaker. Is it an alleged breach or a breach?

**Madam SPEAKER:** I will consider that matter when I have an opportunity to view the *Hansard*. There are two minutes on the clock.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Thank you. In relation to the transport issues, we know that they are very important and that they are generating jobs. This week we have heard members of the government say that governments are not there to actually generate jobs. We do know very clearly—and I know the Minister for Transport would share these thoughts with me—that projects such as the Gold Coast Rapid Transit project, which the member for Mermaid Beach was referring to, and the Springfield rail project are very important projects for the life of not only this government but the previous government. We know that they will have a huge impact on people who live around these communities. We know that improving public transport is very, very important, but we still do not hear much from the minister about public transport. We know that these are very, very important—

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I have not heard the Minister for Transport talk about public transport issues lately in this House. It is very important that the people of Queensland know what the minister believes in in relation to transport. I do want to raise one issue that is very important to the people in my local area.

**Mr Emerson** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is, the increased fees put on pensioners who want to travel home this Christmas to be with their loved ones.

**Mr Emerson** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order! The Minister for Transport will cease his interjections.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Evie Wolffe approached me and said it will be very difficult for her to be able to get home to see her family because of the increased fees that this government has put on in relation to pensioners travelling—

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** For the pensioners who have to travel home at Christmas time, the fees are making it very difficult for them. I would ask the minister, with the Christmas spirit, to please rethink—

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Madam Speaker, I find the comments by the Attorney-General offensive and I ask him to withdraw.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Attorney-General, the Leader of the Opposition has taken offence.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I withdraw, Madam Speaker.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Thank you. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I have finished.