




Speech by

Michael Pucci

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

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LNP GOVERNMENT, ACHIEVEMENTS

 **Mr PUCCI** (Logan—LNP) (2.54 pm): I rise today to talk about starting and finishing things. We are a government that will finish what we start efficiently and with responsible economic management based on our promise of a four-pillar economy. Time and time again in this House, when our ministers speak about what this government has already achieved for Queensland, the small group in the opposition starts cackling, 'We started it.' That is great; they started a lot over their 20 years of poor economic management of our wonderful state! What did they start? What did they do efficiently and effectively? Let us look at what the inept former Labor government of the bad old days started over the last 20 years.

With a lack of fiscal discipline, they started a debt crisis which will cost Queensland taxpayers. If our debt were to reach \$100 billion it would mean an interest repayment of approximately \$685,000 an hour. \$100 billion is enough to build 56 hospitals with 750 beds, or 636 schools. This is why the Newman government is acting now to restore Queensland's finances. We will not allow the state's financial position to deteriorate further, and we are taking action to regain the AAA credit rating.

The former Labor government started many issues in health, with waiting lists for waiting lists, the abysmal management of the Health payroll system and a lack of due diligence in checking overseas health workers' references, such as for our fake Tahitian prince and, of course, 'Dr Death'. The LNP government will invest \$816 million in Health this year, with the vast majority of extra funding going straight to the newly created hospital and health boards, which have been established to give greater local control and input into health services. We are committed to reducing the former bad, old Labor government's notorious 'waiting list for a waiting list'.

The former government prompted the increased concern of the community about crime by failing to recognise the need to provide proper funding and resources for police. This government is adding 1,100 new police to the ranks on top of moving 200 police officers out from behind desks and putting them on the beat. We have also added an additional 15 school based police officers, including one to a school in my electorate of Logan—Flagstone State Community College.

The former government also started the desperate need for better roads, infrastructure and public transport, with cost overruns and a black hole into which money is poured but has nothing to show for it. They started a dictator style of government with less and less consultation, including forced amalgamations of councils and fluoridation of water. This Newman led government with the honourable Minister for Local Government is forging long-lasting service partnerships with local councils. We are working with councils and giving them the authority they deserve to help their local communities.

So, yes, congratulations; they started a lot! I am so thankful the bad, old Labor government was incapable of finishing these things. I am pleased to be a part of the LNP can-do team of responsible economic managers to get Queensland back on track and to finish what we have promised. We are finishers.