




Speech by

Tim Mulherin

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

Hansard Thursday, 2 August 2012

PUBLIC SERVICE, JOBS

 **Mr MULHERIN** (Mackay—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (3.23 pm): Recently, we saw the marching on Parliament House of thousands of disgruntled public servants who are very concerned about this government's slashing of government jobs and services. Coinciding rallies were held in regional centres, including Cairns, Mackay and Rockhampton. I was outside my office building in Mackay where a few hundred government workers had marched, demanding information from this government about which of them would lose their jobs. I vowed to take the issue up with the government, as local representatives, the member for Whitsunday and the member for Mirani, did not front or meet with the protesters.

The rally was an ideal opportunity for the Premier and local LNP members to be upfront with their own employees and their families about how many of their jobs will be slashed. With all government departments and agencies now involved in the prebudget process through CBRC, the Premier has no excuse for not revealing the number of government jobs set to be axed. We know that the CBRC has already considered slashing 2,200 from Queensland Rail, 140 jobs from Skilling Queenslanders for Work, 550 from the agriculture department, one-third of Tourism Queensland and 1,000 from QBuild. It is time that the Premier revealed the total number of people and families he will be sending to the jobless queue. This government knows the number; it is just not being upfront enough to communicate to its own workers about how many will go and from where.

The disrespect the LNP is showing to its own workers is in stark contrast to comments made in this very House when it was in opposition. During debate on the Public Service Bill 2008, the now Minister for Health and member for Southern Downs stated—

The Public Service Bill should be a declaration by the government that it values the Public Service workforce and is prepared to provide the best possible conditions for its employees.

The member for Gregory claimed—

If we are going to produce high-performing government agencies, we have to look after every aspect of employees' needs ...

He also said—

People should not be gouged out of a department because they do not support a particular side of politics.

The now Minister for Energy and Water Supply and member for Caloundra said—

... I want to put on record at the outset my admiration and respect for the Queensland Public Service and the thousands of employees who contribute to Queensland on a daily basis. Having spent 10 years working for the Queensland Public Service a number of years ago, I understand the contribution they make not just to the state of Queensland but also indirectly to the economy throughout this great state of ours.

The comments of the member for Caloundra are a far cry from recent comments of the Premier and Treasurer that the only real jobs are in the private sector. The Premier needs to stop hiding, be upfront and show public servants the respect they deserve.