




Speech By
Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENTS

Newman Government, Performance

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.39 pm): Normally when anyone approaches an anniversary or reaches a special milestone it is a time for celebration, a time for reflecting on achievement. As we reach the first anniversary of the Newman LNP government next week, it will indeed be a time of deep reflection for all Queenslanders and, dare I say, all members of the government.

For Queenslanders, 24 March will present an opportunity to reflect on a government that in record time came to personify betrayals and to represent underhandedness and took no shame in brutally letting us know it could not be trusted. For each and every member sitting on that side of the House, 24 March should and will mark the time when they will be wondering where it all went so horribly wrong and probably none more so than the member for Redcliffe, who on this auspicious occasion has won himself a place as the face of the LNP. At what should be a milestone, the member for Redcliffe has provided this government a millstone. The scandal that continues to swirl about this member is typical of this government—a government that has nothing to celebrate come 24 March and should hang its head in shame, not the least because its sole achievement has been to feather its own nest with its sole project, a brand-new executive building across the road.

Nobody will be celebrating on 24 March, not the 14,000 workers who were sacked after being promised they had nothing to fear, not the hundreds of people from non-government organisations who shut up shop after their funding was axed, not the thousands of public housing tenants who had been left callously hanging in limbo worrying about their future, not the thousands of hospital patients forced to wait for treatment because this government will not fund such basic medical fundamentals as bandages and pathology services, not the environmental warriors who look on aghast as this government clears Cape York of natural habitat and opens up Queensland to uranium mining, and least of all this government itself which knows it has betrayed Queensland and knows that it is incapable of governing itself. It will be looking back at those who were dumped—the police minister, the housing minister and the minister for arts and IT—and those other members who walked away from the LNP because they were themselves deceived by their own, which brings me back to the member for Redcliffe.

As this government marks its first year, it would be wise to take a long, hard look at its disgraceful head-in-the-sand approach over the past fortnight in relation to this particular member. The member for Redcliffe's efforts will be the benchmark on which this government is rightfully judged on 24 March, because Queenslanders understand that, just like the member for Redcliffe, this government is more about arrogance and unanswered questions than owning up to wrongs and doing the right thing.

(Time expired)