




Speech By
Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

ADJOURNMENT SPEECH

Redcliffe

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.48 pm): I have already today in some detail touched on how the second budget of the Newman LNP government delivers only broken promises. Further to that I want to talk about Redcliffe and what the Premier and Treasurer have provided for this thriving and rapidly-growing area. It adds up to very little.

It is also important that someone in this House helps the people of Redcliffe to gain an understanding of what this budget delivers for them, considering that they have no representative to address the budget in their region. That is perhaps the biggest broken promise for the people of Redcliffe—that this government has abandoned them.

So what has this budget delivered for Redcliffe? Firstly, it has—not unsurprisingly—delivered a cut to critical health services for more than 55,000 people who call the peninsula area home. The budget allocates \$36 million less than it did last year for the Metro North Health Board, and that will have a direct and detrimental effect on health services in Redcliffe. How does that address health issues for this growing area?

We have also heard that the health minister has ordered the Redcliffe Hospital's pain clinic to lock its doors so that hundreds of people cannot access vital care. But now there is more to come.

Surely there must be something in this LNP budget that delivers for Redcliffe, in the area of public transport perhaps. All Redcliffe residents understand that it was Labor at both the state and the federal level which funded and began work on the important Moreton Bay rail link. It gives me no pleasure, however, to inform the good people of Redcliffe that this LNP budget slashes funding committed in the last budget of \$249.6 million to \$170.6 million in 2013-14.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Members, these speaking opportunities are quite short. I would ask members to cease their interjections because they are not being taken.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I suppose that Redcliffe, already very low on this government's priority list, will just have to wait.

When I was in Redcliffe two weeks ago to address a town hall meeting I gave the community an undertaking that I would address the parliament in relation to the budget on their behalf. I make special mention of their concerns in relation to the closure of the very important Regional Community Association Moreton Bay on the Thursday prior to Easter and, more to the point, the debacle that is this government's treatment of that sad closure. The communities minister has done nothing more than turn her back on the people of this association and, to the best of my knowledge, has refused to

even go and meet with staff there. When she was asked this week what she was doing to address the issue of unpaid wages for these people, the minister said very, very little. She said that it was a matter for the board—the same board that has had serious allegations levelled against it.

The people of Redcliffe would have no issue with me describing them as battlers. It is how they describe themselves. They understand that this government has nothing for them and is happy to ignore them. This government can rest assured: those battlers will be returning the favour come the next election.