




Speech By  
**Annastacia Palaszczuk**

**MEMBER FOR INALA**

---

Record of Proceedings, 15 October 2013

**MOTION: WORKERS' RIGHTS**

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.44 pm): I rise to second the motion moved by the Manager of Opposition Business. At the outset let me say that this LNP government will stop at nothing to attack Queensland workers in this state. It is a government that has no shame in stooping to any level to savage workers' rights, to inconvenience workers and to sack over 14,000 people and throw them on the unemployment scrap heap. We can all go back to what the Premier said before the election when he said that the Public Service had nothing to fear. They were his words: the Public Service had nothing to fear. Let me tell you: 14,000 people do not think that any longer. This is a government that has been in office for 18 months but in those 18 months thousands of Queenslanders have been attacked, they have been humiliated and they have been treated with every indignity, and they are unlikely to forget that. In that short period the LNP government has forged itself the worst reputation in our history when it comes to jobs and workers and their rights. It is a shameful record that warrants examination.

In 18 months the Newman government has attacked the independent umpire, the QIRC, made it harder for unions to stand up for their members and destroyed employment security for government workers with the stroke of a pen—and that is not even taking into account the over 14,000 hardworking Queenslanders who were stripped of their dignity, stripped of their pay packets and stripped of their ability to support their families when they were shown the door by this heartless Premier and this heartless government. We all know that the Newman government talked a lot about the cost of living, and I have said in this House on countless occasions that you cannot pay the bills, you cannot pay your mortgage and you cannot pay your rising electricity bills if you do not have a job. Last week I attended a town hall meeting at Ipswich and a lady there talked about her husband losing his job and the impact that that had on their family, and let me say that it was not a good story to tell. It was not a good story at all. When you take away someone's job, you take away their dignity. You take away their ability to earn for their family. You take away their strength of character and you reduce them to the scrap heap. This government has a lot to answer for.

**Mr Elmes** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I will listen to you in a minute, member for Noosa. This government has a lot to answer for when it comes to stripping away workers' rights in this state. It has been callous and heartless and members of the public will remember this when they go to the ballot box in 18 months time. And this is just the beginning. More is yet to come and none of it is good. Among the fresh pain to come, this government has plans for massive outsourcing across core government services, including health. It wants to sell off local schools. It wants to privatise our public transport network. It wants to look at putting our energy businesses up for sale—moves that will likely further drive yet more service cuts and job losses. It is taking a sledgehammer to community services and community workers' rights across this state, and it is happening in every electorate. Every member sitting here will know that their community organisations are having job losses and there are other people in their

communities who are feeling the pain of their cabinet's decision. You are a part of this government and you must share the blame. You must absolutely share the blame. When I travel across the state people tell me the impact that losing jobs is having, especially in regional communities.

In Townsville, in Rockhampton, in Mackay, out at Longreach, in Mount Isa, down on the Gold Coast, on the Sunshine Coast, the LNP's job cuts are having a huge impact on the regional economies. Once we lose those people, they will move from Queensland and we will lose a generation of minds that would be able to contribute to our economy well into the future. The LNP's plans for the mass privatisation of government services will continue to hurt communities. They will hurt every time people take their kids to school; they will hurt every time they need to use a hospital; they will hurt them every time they need to pay their energy bills. Queenslanders will continue to pay the price for the LNP cuts and the workers will be shown the door. There is nothing more important than the dignity of work and the dignity of having a job. This government is disgraceful.

*(Time expired)*