




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR INALA

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MOTION: NEWMAN GOVERNMENT, ELECTION COMMITMENTS

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (6.06 pm): Tonight it is very clear that we are debating here a solemn pledge and a solemn contract that the LNP government and, in particular, the Premier made with each and every Queenslanders throughout this state. As the Premier stated quite clearly, he made five clear pledges: to grow a four-pillar economy—and the LNP has said that it will reduce unemployment in Queensland to four per cent in six years. How is that going? For some strange reason, I do not recall it saying anywhere in this pledge to Queenslanders that they were going to sack 14,000 Queenslanders. There was not one word before the election that 14,000 jobs were going to go. What we have seen over the last week has been more cuts. More jobs have gone from RoadTek, the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and tourism—more jobs are going. After Christmas some Queenslanders are going to face a very bleak future because this government does not believe in the dignity of work. This government does not believe in growing an economy to generate jobs. That is what this side of the House believes in: jobs, jobs and jobs.

Let us go on to what else other Queenslanders will think at the time the next election comes around. What did this government promise they will do? This LNP government said that they would lower the cost of living. Now Queenslanders face electricity price rises that they have never seen before, 22.6 per cent. People out there are struggling. People out there and families are struggling to make ends meet. They are struggling to find out how they are going to make ends meet.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members will cease interjecting. The Leader of the Opposition has the call.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The third is to deliver better infrastructure and better planning. We all know about the one building, the piece of infrastructure that the Deputy Premier is smiling about over there. Yes, it is 1 William Street, a brand-new executive building for the Premier and his ministers. Where is the funding in the regions? Where is the growth in the regions? Where are the jobs to be generated in the regions?

Queensland is a diverse state, but where is the funding in Cairns, Mackay, Townsville, Rockhampton, Emerald, Longreach, Charleville and the Gold Coast? The development which is happening is basically development that was started under Labor. The expansion for hospitals was started and was delivered under a Labor government—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! Order! Members will cease interjecting!

Ms PALASZCZUK: In terms of 'revitalise front-line services for families', all we have seen is job cuts and cuts to services. Nowhere are people feeling it more than in our hospital system. They are going to hospitals to receive services, and all this government wants to do is cut the staff, cut the

nurses, cut the doctors and make it harder for people to get the treatment that they need and that they deserve.

How can I resist 'restore accountability in government'? What we have seen over the past two weeks has been a complete disgrace. This is a government that does not understand the separation of powers and that tramples on the judiciary in this state. This is a Premier who resorts to name calling. This is a government that does not care about families and does not care about people. This is a government that wants to take us backwards to the Joh Bjelke-Petersen era. This is a government that has not learned from its past history.

As the member for Gaven was saying, at the next election Queenslanders will have a choice. They will look at this contract very closely and ask, 'Did this LNP government deliver for Queenslanders?' Do you know what Queenslanders will say? 'No, they did not deliver at all!' They may sit here and name call and interject, but at the end of the day they need to realise that families out there are hurting, and they are going to remember what this LNP government has done to them—

(Time expired)