




Speech By
Hon. Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

MOTION: COMMISSION OF AUDIT

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (5.44 pm): I do not know where to start! First we had that enthralling eight minutes from the shadow Treasurer. The member could have spoken for 10 minutes but could only make it to eight on his own motion. So that is two minutes that he is already in deficit. And then the Leader of the Opposition had the hide to say that Peter Costello sold \$72 billion worth of assets. How much did the Labor Party sell without telling anyone they were going to sell assets? \$15 billion. We remember 15 May 2009, when we asked the then transport minister, 'What about the sale of Queensland Rail?' and she said it would not be sold. It is a field so rich in pickings that I wish there were 14 members opposite. I move—

That all words after 'House' be deleted and the following words inserted:

- notes it is 388 days since the 2012 election and Labor has failed to promote or suggest one policy since promising to do so at the Queensland Council of Unions' Labour Day dinner 347 days ago;
- notes that Labor planned to incur \$85 billion in debt by 30 June 2015 and debt was heading to \$100 billion;
- notes the independent commission of audit's first report was released in full and a briefing provided to all opposition members;
- notes the executive summary of the final report was released on the day of delivery;
- notes the final report will be released together with the government's response within two months of receipt as stated by the Premier and Treasurer; and
- endorses the Newman government's fiscal strategy, initiatives to lower the cost of living and actions to ensure that Queensland is a great state with great opportunity.

In a speech to the Queensland Council of Unions' Labour Day dinner on 4 May 2012 the opposition leader, Anastacia Palaszczuk, announced that the TJ Ryan Foundation was being established to support the policy development of the decimated Queensland Labor Party. You can imagine my surprise when 347 days later I discovered that neither the opposition nor the much lauded TJ Ryan Foundation has made any substantive policy announcement. Earlier today I did a little further digging. I thought, 'I will see what the TJ Ryan Foundation has been up to.' What has it been doing in almost a year since it was announced?

Opposition members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: I appreciate the enthusiasm with the interjections across the chamber, but I ask the House to come to order. I call the Treasurer.

Mr NICHOLLS: A simple search of the ALP's website for the TJ Ryan Foundation reveals—wait for it—absolutely nothing. What has happened to the great policy think tank? I table a report from one o'clock today on the great work of the TJ Ryan Foundation in the 347 days since it was established.

Tabled paper: Printout of www.queenslandlabor.org webpage, dated 16 April 2013, regarding search for 'TJ Ryan Foundation' [2437].

For the past 388 days the Newman government has embarked on a reform process to rebuild the state's finances and to turn the Queensland Public Service into the most efficient Public Service in

the nation. Madam Speaker, you would think any credible Queensland based think tank would be involved in the public debate around those important reforms. But where is the TJ Ryan Foundation? It is nowhere to be heard.

I recall that they were going to fund it themselves. They were going to get \$15,000 from the Labor Party, they were going to get \$5,000 from the Queensland Council of Unions and they were all going to cough up \$5,000 amongst themselves to support it, to give it a base to start from. It sounds eerily reminiscent of Mr Scott and the \$100,000 he was going to spend on push polling throughout the state. It has got about the same result—nothing so far! Once again, the ALP confuses spending money with actually getting something done. They have not done a thing.

This is the most well funded, laziest opposition that Queensland has ever seen. I thought I would have a look at the service delivery statement relating to the opposition. There are budgeted positions for 22 staff for seven opposition members. How much money do they have to spend in a full year? They have \$3.44 million. That is \$200,000 more than the previous opposition. That is nearly \$500,000 each. What have they produced? Not a zap. There is nothing to show for it—no questions, no policy, no plan for future.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: The challenge for those opposite is to say what they would do, and they do not know because they do not have a plan.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: The TJ Ryan Foundation is about as effective as their policy work. There is a lot of talk but no outcome.

Madam SPEAKER: Before I call the next speaker, there are members shouting and screeching to my left and I am warning members on my left to give the opportunity to members on their feet the chance to be heard appropriately.