




Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**

**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 6 May 2014

### **MOTION: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, BUDGET**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.40 pm): I rise to second the motion moved by the shadow Treasurer. For more than two years now Queenslanders have watched on in horror as the Newman government determinedly set about wrecking their state. They have watched aghast while this government overpromised and underdelivered on things that matter—the cost of living, health services, education and jobs. They have watched on stunned and appalled at the actions of a Premier and a government that sacked thousands, slashed front-line services, forced the cost of living through the roof and beyond the capability of most families, attacked the elderly and some of our most vulnerable Queenslanders, attacked workplace conditions and low wage earners, and lurched from crisis to crisis, including right up to this morning. Clearly Canberra has been watching as well.

The Commonwealth LNP government and the Prime Minister have been keeping a close eye on their mates in Queensland—watching the stumbling, lumbering, slash and burn Newman government as it punished Queenslanders in every town, city and region. Have Tony Abbott and his government learned from Premier Newman's astounding mistakes? Has the Prime Minister committed to not repeat the mistakes of recent history? No, he has not. The Prime Minister has done something completely bizarre and instead decided to use the recent and horrific experience of Queensland as a blueprint—a blueprint for breaking election promises, a blueprint for taking an axe to funding in fundamental and critical areas like health and education, a blueprint to attack our most vulnerable by targeting pensioners who already struggle under the steadily growing cost of living, a blueprint for attacking workers and working conditions right across the state, and now he will target them right across the nation. Just so we are all positive that Mr Abbott has missed nothing from Queenslanders' experience of Mr Newman, his government has also now set his sights on education, attacking our schools and higher learning institutions.

What Mr Newman has visited on Queensland his counterpart in Canberra is now intent on visiting on the entire nation. The pain and the suffering and the arrogance that has been inflicted on Queenslanders will now be served up again by the Abbott government and its pending budget. What that means for Queenslanders, for families and for workers is that they will be bashed by an LNP double whammy not just in Queensland but right across the nation. They will see those front-line services funded by Canberra slashed. Pensioners will see their incomes slashed. Students at the point of establishing their careers for the rest of their lives will be penalised. Workers will see their rights and their pay packets shrink. But there is opportunity for Queenslanders and for Australians from all states to take a stand against both the arrogant Newman government and the arrogant Abbott government. The polls—

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** But there is something in common with Campbell Newman's government that Tony Abbott can proudly point to, and that is the dive into the abyss of their unpopularity. Yes, the

unpopularity of this Premier continues to dive and one has only to look at the recent polls about what is happening federally.

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Queenslanders should be ashamed about what the Tony Abbott government is looking at doing. Before the election it did not promise there was going to be a debt tax or a debt levy. No-one mentioned that. Did anyone hear Tony Abbott say that he was going to rip up Medicare across the nation? No, no-one heard about that. Now it has its sights set on workers—not just any worker but those who earn the minimum wage.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order, members! There are too many interjections.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The member over there from the government talks about scaremongering. The only people who are scared are people who voted for the LNP. What Tony Abbott has done is copy lock, stock and barrel what this Treasurer and this Premier have put in place with their Commission of Audit. Is it working? No, it is not because people do not want their assets sold.

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** People want to keep Medicare retained in federal ownership. They do not want to pay co-payments. Workers want to keep their rights and conditions.

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** They want to keep their penalty rates.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Pause the clock.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** They do not want to see a national government—

**Madam SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, I am sorry to interrupt you. I know that this is a robust debate, but the interjections are not being taken and there is too much noise in the chamber. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** What Australians will find out on budget day is that Tony Abbott's government is not what they voted for. What Queenslanders are finding right across the state is that this LNP government is not what they voted for. It says one thing with one hand and it does another. This is not good government, it is not what Queenslanders voted for and it is not what the Australian public voted for. Australians and Queenslanders deserve far better.