




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Newman Government, Performance

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.02 am): This morning it is a question of where do I actually begin? I think I will begin with the most recent by-election in Stafford. I am pleased to advise the House that the revised swing for the state seat of Stafford is 19.1 per cent. On behalf of the opposition, I would like to formally welcome Dr Anthony Lynham to the Queensland parliament as the new member for Stafford.

Let us talk about Stafford. Stafford was symbolic of what people are feeling not just in Stafford but across Queensland. We know that there were several issues at play here. The No. 1 issue is how arrogant the Premier and his team are as well as being out of touch with the local community. When Dr Lynham and I went around and spoke to the people in Stafford this came through very clearly in their remarks. What was also very telling, and is something that I have been talking about in this House for over two years, is that the nearly 20,000 people who lost their public sector jobs have come back to haunt this government. Day in, day out the public talk about the impact that is being felt by one of their family members losing a job because of this government.

If we turn back the clock to earlier this year, Redcliffe was the start of the people's reaction to what was happening in Queensland. With Redcliffe we saw the election of Yvette D'Ath with a 17.2 per cent swing. One would think this would have been a wake-up call for the government. But it was not a wake-up call because the government continued to attack. Let us go through the people that they have continued to attack over the last two years. First of all the government said that public servants had nothing to fear yet it cut up to 20,000 jobs through the public sector. Then we had the attacks on the ambulance officers, the firefighters and the nurses. Then we had the attack on the doctors. Who can forget the ongoing doctors crisis brought about by the Health minister's own making; attacking doctors and not listening to the former member for Stafford, Chris Davis.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They do not want to listen. You should be listening. We know what seat you represent. You should be listening a lot more.

Mr Pitt: They are listening, they just don't like what everyone is saying.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. They do not like what we have to say. I will keep saying it because Queenslanders are hurting and they are sick of this arrogant and out-of-touch government. Let us talk about what happened after the Stafford by-election. After the Stafford by-election the Premier of this state went for his little fun run the next morning and stood in front of the cameras and said, 'Yes, we've had the Stafford by-election and Queenslanders don't appreciate me.' That is what the Premier said. The phones would have been running hot that afternoon. The phones would have been ringing non-stop. Cabinet ministers would have been ringing around. The backbench would have been ringing around.

Mrs D'Ath: Bruce McIver would have called, too.

Ms PALASZCZUK: McIver would have been ringing up, 'Premier, that's not what you say after a massive swing of that magnitude in Stafford.' What were the backflips? I would love to run through these backflips.

Ms Trad: Trivial backflips.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Trivial backflips. I will take that interjection from the member for South Brisbane. First of all there will be no more bikies in pink jumpsuits. I am quite sure that one of our shadows was asking questions during the estimates process about how many bikies were in pink jumpsuits. Of course, we had no answer. The second backflip was, I am proud to say, actually adopting the opposition's policy of restoring the estimates process. What we saw over the two days of the estimates hearings was nothing short of a debacle. It was disgraceful. Those opposite know it was a farce. I am pleased that they have finally accepted the opposition policy to restore it.

Now I come to the crucial point. This is the wake-up call for the Premier. This is testament to the fundamental fact that this Premier is failing to listen. I am talking here about the bipartisan appointment of the chair of the anticorruption watchdog in this state. We all know the Premier and the Attorney-General spoke at length about backing in their person and how they could choose who could be the chair because we did not need bipartisan support. Actions speak louder than words. Today I am calling on the Premier of this state to remove Dr Ken Levy as the chair of the CCC. He does not have bipartisan support, plain and simple. Today is the test of the Premier's leadership. If you believe in what you say and you stand by the principle that the chair of the anticorruption watchdog in this state should have bipartisan support, the chair of the CCC must stand down immediately. The chair of the CCC must stand down today. No ifs, buts or maybes, not waiting until the new process, today is the day for the chair of the CCC to stand down.

I have been very concerned of late about this government's most recent attacks. The most recent attacks include not only attacking our lawyers and the judiciary but also continuing attacks on Tony Fitzgerald. This is a man whose integrity and honesty should not be questioned by anyone in this state. What we have seen over the last six months is a campaign to attack this man. If the government is true to its word and is now about listening, these attacks must stop forthwith.

After the Stafford by-election we learnt from the *Courier-Mail* that this government is embarking on a new operation called 'operation boring'. Today we saw it in action during question time and now we are seeing it in action during MPs. The truth is that for the past two years the code that was implemented in this state was called 'operation attack'. It was about attacking anyone—any citizen in this state—without fear or failure.

This Premier is incapable of changing. A leopard does not change its spots. After the Redcliffe by-election, the Premier said he would listen. Then we had the fight over doctors' contracts. They fought with the former member for Stafford because he stood up against the electoral donation laws that were being rammed through this parliament. Then we had the Stafford by-election and the government said it would make some fundamental changes, but they do not go anywhere near as far as they should. Following the changes to the electoral donation laws, the public knows very clearly what this government is about: it is about hiding secret donations from the public's view. Labor will go back to \$1,000 donation limits. We will declare \$1,000 donations and, in the future, we will make that retrospective. I am putting the LNP and the party organisation on notice: collect your records, because if Labor is re-elected we will make those laws retrospective and all those donations will be in the public domain. Secret donations are a hallmark of this government and that must change.

In conclusion, if Redcliffe and Stafford are not a wake-up call for this government, I do not know what is. Queenslanders are hurting and this government is failing to listen and it is failing to understand, and a leopard will not change its spots.

(Time expired)