




Speech By
Hon. John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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MOTION: NEWMAN GOVERNMENT

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education, Training and Employment) (6.20 pm): It is my great privilege to rise to conclude this debate after listening to the former member, the member for Gaven, who, as I understand it, called his constituents ‘bogans’. That is what he had to say about his constituents just a couple of months ago. As for those eight opposite, if they are so confident about how they stand up for the Gold Coast, come down and take us on at the next election. Come and take us on. Give up your own seats and come and take us on. But they will not be able to do that, unlike the Palmer United Party—and the member for Gaven will face the challenges that he deserves in Gaven.

It is my great pride to be the Minister for Education, Training and Employment on the Gold Coast especially because of what we have been able to deliver. All members in this House know that over the last number of years we have had a number of schools and principals who have been getting \$10,000 to \$12,000 a year for maintenance. The schools in my electorate have received more than \$1.3 million for maintenance in the last two years. Under those opposite, they got a pittance and we had a \$300 million maintenance backlog. That is what we had from those opposite. Through the Great Results Guarantee, \$1 million has been given directly to school principals because we rely on them to get the results and the outcomes and not rely on ideology, which is what those opposite do. There has been more than \$9.7 million in capital funding in the last two years in our schools, with extra prep teacher aide hours, and \$1.2 million in Community Learning grants in Education, Training and Employment in the last year.

But we have heard a lot from those opposite about what it is that we have done for the coast. The university teaching hospital and light rail have been delivered by this government, and we are proud to have delivered it on behalf of our community. Last week we heard from those opposite that we just had to look for patience in terms of our economic stability and returning the economy to where it should be. But when it comes to policy—

Opposition members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Pause the clock. There are too many interjections from my left and they are not being taken. I call the minister.

Mr LANGBROEK: We heard that when it comes to economic matters we just have to rely on patience. When it comes to policy matters from those opposite all we get is recycling. It took 409 days for those opposite to come up with their first policy, and it was a recycled policy. In government they had a program called Get Set for Work; now they have brought in a policy called Get Ready for Work. That was one recycled policy. That was after 409 days. The other recycled policy they had—it is only the second one we have had in education—was that we should have single-sex classes and/or schools. They had 20 years and they actually did try to bring it in in some schools, whereas we left it to our principals to decide whether they are the things that they want to achieve and to decide that based on the results they get. So there is the difference.

When it comes to the most significant issue that we have seen on the Gold Coast in the last two years—that is, law and order—what did those opposite do in the last 14 years about law and order? They did nothing while the bikie gangs took over the city. While they took over locksmiths, tattoo parlours and cafes, those opposite did nothing. They paid lip-service while we were having armed robberies at the rate of one a day. Whilst those opposite were bleating about those issues and doing nothing, this government under this Premier brought in legislation that has made a great difference to the people of the Gold Coast. That is why I reiterate my offer, my invitation, to those opposite who would not have the guts to come down and take us on in the Gold Coast. They will not have the guts to do it because the Gold Coast knows what Labor members are. They know that they are all show. They are all show and they have nothing else, whereas on this side we are delivering. We are delivering in health, we are delivering in education, we are delivering in community safety and we are going to make sure that we deliver—

Mrs Stuckey: And tourism.

Mr LANGBROEK: Tourism is a great example. I hear my honourable cabinet colleague the member for Currumbin behind me speaking about the benefits from the best summer season in years that we have had in Surfers Paradise and on the Gold Coast. There are still challenges but they are challenges that we face because of the debt burden left behind by those opposite—\$450,000 an hour in interest payments alone. It was those opposite who left that behind. It is not patience that is going to fix the problem. They will say anything on the eve of an election. In fact, often they do not say anything at all. We will make sure that we put out our costings and that we deliver for the people, and we will make sure that we get returned at the next election, as we were in 2012 proudly on behalf of the Gold Coast and all of Queensland.