




Speech By
Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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MOTION

Newman LNP Government, Economic Performance

 **Mrs D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (6.15 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the shadow Treasurer. I thought I would be rising to respond to the debate on the other side but quite honestly there is very little to respond to. But what little they have said I will comment on. Of course they have sought to play the blame game again. They cannot help themselves, but I do remind them of the Premier's comment back on 28 March 2012 when he stated, 'If they don't sort out problems within two years, at that stage it's not the Labor Party's fault; it's their fault'—their fault. So at what point 2½ years into their first term are they going to start taking responsibility for their own decisions?

They say they are going to build the economy on these four pillars. Quite honestly I think their four pillars have turned into four pillows. They have gone to sleep. They have gone to sleep because if this is the LNP government focusing on jobs I would hate to see what happened if they took their eye off the ball, honestly.

Let's look at the figures. In the LNP's can-do action economic blueprint for Queensland back in 2012 they gave Labor a fail—a fail. On what? Queensland's unemployment figure of 5.4 per cent under Labor. We got a fail. So I ask the Premier, I ask the LNP government, what are they going to give themselves come the election? What are their billboards going to say about their 6.4 per cent trend unemployment? If 6.4 per cent unemployment is not bad enough—and it is not a joking matter, certainly not for my region—then when we look at the figures for regions like Moreton Bay North the current figures show our unemployment sitting at 8.5 per cent. What about Cairns at 7.4 per cent; the Sunshine Coast, 7.4 per cent; Ipswich, 8.9 per cent; Logan-Beaudesert, 9.3 per cent; Wide Bay, 9.6 per cent; Townsville, 10 per cent? Where were those members standing up for their communities on jobs?

Let's look at the Brotherhood of St Laurence's report *Australian Youth Unemployment 2014: Snapshot*. Unfortunately we are now listed in the 10 worst youth unemployment hot spots in Australia. Three of those 10 are in Queensland. Moreton Bay North, including Caboolture and Redcliffe, sits at 18.1 per cent youth unemployment.

If that is not bad enough, let's look at the trend for long-term unemployment. Let's really start looking at these figures because the number of people in Queensland who have been unemployed for between 52 weeks and 104 weeks is now 18,900. That has gone up by 5,000 people in the last 12 months. The number of people who have been unemployed for 104 weeks and over is now 14,200. This has gone up by almost 2,000. So almost 7,000 people have become long-term unemployed—a year to more than two years unemployment—under the watch of Campbell Newman and this LNP government.

Remember this, the contract with Queenslanders? It listed their commitment to front-line services. We know of the thousands of jobs that they cut out of the Public Service, but they did not cut all jobs. It is true that between March 2012 and June 2014 the quarterly workforce profile shows that

there has been a reduction in the Public Service under the Newman government of 5.4 per cent. I know that they pat themselves on the back; they are very proud of the reduction in the Public Service under their watch. There has been an increase in the Public Service—an increase of 51 per cent in people earning \$100,000 or more. So when their contract to Queenslanders talks about front-line services, where have the jobs increased in the Public Service? At the top end!

This government cannot be trusted. They cannot be trusted on asset sales. Their own words are a furphy, an attempt to perpetrate a con on the people of Queensland: a sell-off, sale—sneaky, dishonest. It defines this government and every word that they have said.