




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MOTION OF CONFIDENCE

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (3.05 am), in reply: First and foremost, I thank all members who have participated in this debate. It has been a long but very important debate, because it is about expressing a vote of confidence in the Palaszczuk Labor government. I reflect back some four months ago to a speech that I made in this House, from where the Leader of the Opposition now sits. It is a great reminder of what we were talking about at the end of last year, just prior to the election campaign. The first and most important point was the impact caused by the LNP government's sacking of some 24,000 people in this state. As I travelled the length and breadth of this state, I met people who had been sacked by those sitting opposite. People have told me how much that hurt them and their families, and how it caused them great pain and distress as they were not able to pay their bills.

The speech also reminded me of the time when the member for Mermaid Beach failed to provide the Integrity Commissioner's advice in relation to the cable car project. That is a fundamental tenet of integrity and accountability in this state, but the member for Mermaid Beach failed to provide that advice to the House.

I talked about the massive waste of taxpayer's money, which was being utilised on a Strong Choices campaign that was being conducted by the then arrogant LNP government. The architect of that Strong Choices campaign, the former Treasurer, still sits opposite in this House. Hopefully, the former Treasurer will be able to outline to this House how much taxpayer's money was actually utilised in relation to that campaign.

In the speech I made at the end of last year, I spoke about the secret money deal that the LNP did in relation to the railway line that was to be built in the Galilee Basin. It was a secret deal; how much was going to be spent was never conveyed to taxpayers.

At that time I talked about how, following the 2012 election, Labor had learnt its lesson. I said that we had learnt our lesson and we had listened to the electorate very carefully. Mr Speaker, you and other members of the House may recall that I apologised to Queenslanders for that breach of trust. Have we heard any apology from those opposite?

Government members: No!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Has there been any apology from those opposite about what happened at the recent election campaign? I reflect on the fact that when the Newman government was elected it promised to govern with humility, dignity and grace. Over the past three years, did we see any humility, dignity or grace? We did not see one bit of humility, dignity or grace!

I commented on the fact that there had been massive cuts to TAFE at that time. I said that our health system had been gutted by the then LNP government. Who was the architect of the cuts to the health system? The fourth in line to become Premier, the former health minister, who is now sitting in the chair as the Leader of the Opposition.

I said to Queenslanders at that time that there was a better way for our state to be run—away from the arrogance and away from the dishonesty. There was a better way for Queensland to run. At the election Queenslanders voted for that better way. Before the last election I also talked about the values of the Labor Party that I had heard from Gough Whitlam and had heard from Wayne Goss—values of equality, fairness and opportunity. They are the values that this government will work hard to achieve each and every day for the people of Queensland—the people that we represent. In fact, it would be nice to see if perhaps all honourable members could aspire to those values.

This parliament needs to operate in a better way. What we saw over the last three years was a complete and utter disgrace—the sacking of parliamentary committees, the changing of the estimates committee timetable to suit those opposite, the lack of accountability and taking away the independence of the anti-corruption watchdog in this state. Integrity and accountability will remain central to my government as we move forward.

I would like to thank all of my ministers who have participated in this confidence motion today. My ministers have demonstrated that they are passionate about their portfolios, they are across their portfolio issues and they are engaging with stakeholders. When I speak to stakeholders they tell me one thing: this is the highest level of engagement that they have ever seen from a government. This government is prepared to listen. The previous government turned its back on Queenslanders. This government will stand up for Queenslanders right across this state.

My deputy talked clearly about the task we had when we went to the last election. Let me remind honourable members so they all have a clear idea of what happened during the course of the election campaign. When Labor was reduced to seven members after the previous election we sat over there in that little section. There were seven of us who sat there and held the former LNP government to account each and every day. We saw the biggest electoral turnaround in political history. After a by-election we saw the election of the member for Redcliffe. After the next by-election we saw the election of the member for Stafford. They received swings of some 17 per cent and 20 per cent. Then there were nine of us sitting over there in that little section.

There were 78 members of the LNP. They went right around the government side to that little section. LNP members should ask themselves: how did it come to this? I will tell members how. Because they were arrogant and out of touch. There were two words missing from the speeches in the debate from those opposite. Those two words were Campbell Newman.

It was a Campbell Newman led government, but there was a Campbell Newman ministry. The majority of that ministry is sitting opposite. The majority of that ministry will be held to account for what they did to Queensland over the last three years. They are still sitting in here. After the election they said that the Strong Choices plan was gone. The architect of the Strong Choices campaign is there. The member for Clayfield is still in this parliament.

They come in here today and talk about Labor not having a plan. I have never heard anything so ridiculous in my life. Those opposite have no plan. They have absolutely nothing. The only thing in concrete they had to offer to Katter party members in the letter the Leader of the Opposition wrote to them was that they would use part of Labor's plan to deliver their commitments if they were to form government with the Katter party.

What I say to members of the opposition, now that they have all the resources of the opposition—they are going to be the most well resourced opposition in Australia; I can hear those words coming back to me—is that the challenge for them is to be humble, as this government will be humble. The challenge for the LNP is to show Queenslanders that it is different. I doubt that that can happen.

This debate is a motion of confidence in this government. I am absolutely honoured to lead a government with caucus members who have worked so hard over the last three years to earn their right to sit in this place. We are a good team. We are a team that have fought hard, stood up for our communities and are passionate. I know that we will represent our communities to best of our capabilities in this House.

We will see a different style of government. The government that I lead will be a government of consensus. What do I mean by a government of consensus? We will not be rushing through urgent legislation like we saw over the last three years. There will be a proper committee process. We will listen to stakeholders. We will talk to stakeholders. We will talk to the people of Queensland and take Queenslanders with us in this journey.

I will have to make tough decisions along the way. I do not shy away from that responsibility. But I know that I have a team that will work hard and stand up for their communities and represent everybody in their electorates in this House.

In conclusion, this House is the people's house. We should never forget that. It is a privilege to be here. We should treat this House with the respect that it deserves. I commend the motion to the House.