




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 19 May 2015

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Public Service, Appointments

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.37 am): Public servants delivering for Queenslanders at the highest level, namely our directors-general, perform critical jobs helping to run the state and, accordingly, are paid at the highest levels. I consider these highly qualified men and women to be vital in keeping Queensland ticking over. They are front and centre in ensuring that our front-line services are delivered and in ensuring that Queensland taxpayers receive the best value for funding allocated by our government.

My government is currently continuing its merit based—and I re-emphasise that for members opposite, merit based—selection processes for all directors-general across government. Last week, I was very pleased to announce the first appointment after this process of Mr Dave Stewart as the director-general of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. I was also pleased to tell Queenslanders that the government had secured the services of Mr Jim Murphy as Queensland's Under Treasurer. Both of these appointments were recommended by an independent recruitment panel.

Mr Stewart is one of Queensland's most respected public servants. He has worked under both sides of politics in our state as well as worked for the New South Wales Liberal government. In a 30-year career, he has led large government agencies, undertaken policy development, service delivery and planning, and delivered large complex and challenging infrastructure programs and portfolios.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: He has a longstanding and productive relationship with local government and the business community and will provide exceptional leadership to the Queensland Public Service.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Clayfield, the Premier is not taking your interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Mr Murphy comes to our government after 11 years as deputy secretary in the federal Treasury and working as an adviser to the International Monetary Fund in Washington. His most current role was as an executive with the ANZ Bank. He is a winner of the Public Service medal for his work on the former Australian government's response to the global financial crisis. As my government and the Treasurer puts together our first budget, Mr Murphy's extensive experience will be invaluable. He will bring outstanding leadership and economic and financial management to Queensland Treasury.

In conducting our merit based selection processes through an independent panel for our most senior public servants, my government was also made aware of a shocking discovery. We discovered that the former LNP government had introduced a policy that allowed directors-general to qualify for bonuses of up to 15 per cent. In 2013-14 alone, the year that this bonus scheme was launched, directors-general were eligible for up to \$1.2 million in performance bonuses—I repeat that figure: \$1.2 million. Last year the former LNP government paid out around \$640,000 from that pool to directors-general. This is unacceptable. New directors-general appointed through our merit based selection process will not receive these bonuses. Instead, this funding will be redirected back to front-line service delivery where it rightfully belongs. I am determined that Queensland taxpayers will receive the best value for money.