




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszcuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

State of Origin; Netball Stadium

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.46 am): Speaking of winning: 52 points to six. Can I just take a moment to relish that one more time: 52 points to six. The maroons did us proud last week, sealing their ninth State of Origin series win in the past 10 years. Cameron Smith led the boys to Queensland's biggest-ever score and set an all-time Origin record-winning margin. The atmosphere at Suncorp Stadium was electric.

I would like to once again congratulate the team on their dedication and hard work, and I thank them on behalf of all Queenslanders. Given our surroundings today, it gives me great pleasure to remind New South Wales Premier, Mike Baird, of the terms of the bet he set before the series began. Many members in this House may have already seen that Mike has now received a package in the mail from me containing a maroons jersey for him to wear in question time in the New South Wales parliament. I have seen his video. I think we have all had a laugh at his video. I say to Mike Baird that he now has to wear that jersey. I said at the very beginning that he would look good in maroon. It is certainly a colour that we wore with pride last week.

I recently attended another State of Origin decider that I will never forget. I am referring of course to the netball Trans-Tasman grand final. The Queensland Firebirds' thrilling triumph over the New South Wales Swifts last month was an edge-of-the-seat spectacle. Indeed, some might draw political analogies with a team of fighters who trailed right up until the last 15 seconds of full time before a stunning victory and much celebration across Queensland.

I want to place on record my thanks to Laura and her team, who trained hard and won decisively. But those players had to start somewhere—as little girls who wanted to play the sport. Netball is already one of the most successful sports in Queensland and I want to see that participation rise. So it is with great pleasure that I announce that my government will fund a new permanent \$30 million facility, a home for the Firebirds.

Mr DICKSON: I rise to a point of order. I would like to know from the Premier when they are going to stop stealing the LNP's commitments and ideas that we put forward. This is just another example of them stealing our homework.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to a point of order. I ask you to draw to the attention of the member for Buderim the standing orders around such points of order and I would ask you to remind him that debating such matters is not appropriate.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, that is not a point of order. If you would like to see me after the session this morning, I would be happy to go through the standing orders with you.

Ms PALASZCZUK: In conclusion, this project will create approximately 100 jobs during construction. This announcement is a watershed moment for women's sport in Queensland, and I am proud to lead a government that has made it happen.