



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**


**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 September 2015

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Liberal Party of Australia, Leadership**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.40 am): At the last federal election Australians had their say on sudden changes of leadership and endorsed a party that promised certainty. They also endorsed a party that promised to lower debt, promised to lower unemployment, promised no cuts to health and education, and promised to govern with decency and respect. They endorsed a party that promised to invest heavily in infrastructure. Australians—and Queenslanders in particular—have been let down.

The coalition has recognised its own poor performance and last night, in the ultimate exercise in self-assessment, it acted. On behalf of this parliament and the Queensland people, I would like to congratulate Malcolm Turnbull on his election as leader of the federal Liberal Party and his new position as the Prime Minister-elect. Can I also convey to Mr Abbott the parliament's best wishes—both to him and his family—during what is no doubt a tough time.

I hope to be speaking with the new Prime Minister in the next 24 hours, and I will convey to him Queensland's willingness to work constructively with his government. There is much to discuss, and I make it very clear to Mr Turnbull that a constructive relationship goes both ways—that we can only achieve great things for the people of Queensland and the people of Australia if we work together and if we listen to the people. That is the type of relationship that sadly Queensland has not had with the federal government over the last couple of years. But a change in leadership will only be valuable if it leads to a change in direction.

The captain's calls of Mr Abbott were not just limited to knighthoods and banning his own ministers from certain TV programs. Mr Abbott was crystal clear that the federal government would have nothing to do with helping to fund major public transport infrastructure in this state—and that must change. Mr Turnbull is well known for often catching public transport, and I want Mr Turnbull to now help fund public transport in this state. Mr Turnbull spoke last night about being competitive in the 21st century. To be competitive, Queenslanders need Mr Turnbull to invest in the infrastructure of the 21st century. Mr Turnbull was part of a government that tore up the rule book when it comes to funding health and education into the future. He needs to work with the states to help rewrite it.

This side of the House—but I hope the entire parliament—wants the best deal possible for Queensland, regardless of who is sitting in the Prime Minister's chair. We will work with the new Prime Minister to help achieve that, but we will also continue to hold him and his government to account when they do not. I wish him well.