




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszcuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 3 December 2015

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Sugar Industry (Real Choice in Marketing) Amendment Bill, Referral to Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.32 am): Last night in this House, in what must be seen as an act of economic vandalism, a private member's bill was passed that strikes at the very heart of the Queensland economy. The Sugar Industry (Real Choice in Marketing) Amendment Bill 2015 substantially re-regulates the sugar industry. It significantly degrades ownership rights of the sugar industry's newest investors from overseas. It directly puts at risk 16,000 jobs in the sugar industry, future foreign investment and a billion dollar sugar industry. And this was a risk fully endorsed by the Liberal National Party members sitting opposite. Those opposite are more concerned about wreaking havoc and scoring cheap points than they are about representing the people of Queensland.

Honourable member interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: One moment, Premier. Member for Mermaid Beach, if you persist you will be warned under standing order 253A.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The editorial in today's *Courier-Mail* sums it up, stating—

It just beggars belief that the Parliament would even consider such a move in a modern 21st century economy, and in a country that urgently needs to lift productivity and efficiency.

Given the billions of dollars of investment at stake and the serious reputational damage—

Mr SPEAKER: One moment, Premier. Member for Hinchinbrook, if you persist you will be warned under standing order 253A or 253(2).

Ms PALASZCZUK: Given the billions of dollars of investment at stake and the serious reputational damage that this legislation would do to Queensland, I must act. My government is now referring this legislation to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission for assessment. The Treasurer sent this referral last night. I have also written to the Prime Minister, advising him of this course of action and the dire circumstances that provoked it. I intend to speak directly to the Prime Minister about it as well. I hope that the ACCC will recognise this legislation for what it is: anticompetitive behaviour. I hope the ACCC will take action to protect Queensland's interests in a way that the LNP has not.