




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (10.23 am): It is a bit rich for the Deputy Premier to talk about petty pointscore! This Palaszczuk Labor government is running scared of parliamentary scrutiny and accountability by running away from parliamentary sittings. This year has seen the lowest number of sittings in about 20 years. This is a shame. It is a disgrace for a government that self-proclaims its integrity and transparency but then is contemptuous of the very institution it claims to uphold. It is such a joke that, with the number of sittings in this place, some Labor members still have to use a GPS to get to parliament. They do not know where the parliament is because it sits so rarely. In fact, we still have Labor backbenchers wandering around here as if they are on a school tour. They look a bit lost because they have not been to many sittings of parliament.

There is no excuse for a Labor government that claims it upholds the institution of parliament but then avoids it. Unfortunately, this joke is being played out on Queenslanders, who did not vote for a Labor government to talk about accountability and integrity but then avoid it like the plague. Labor says one thing and then does another. It cannot claim the high moral ground about valuing parliament when its actions treat it with contempt.

This chamber is the place where ministers should be held to account by coming before the whole parliament, but this year has seen the lowest number of sittings in more than 20 years, even taking into account estimates hearings. That is a disgrace. I see the Deputy Premier laughing it off. Those opposite think parliament is something to be avoided. This is the place where they need to answer questions about their plans for Queensland and their behaviour. Wait. What plans? That's right: there aren't any plans for Queensland. That is why they do not want to hold parliamentary sittings.

Those opposite also do not want to be held to account for their actions with respect to members such as the member for Cook who are bringing this place into disrepute with respect to allegations of the most disgraceful behaviour that should not be condoned by any government or by this executive, which is behind the scenes propping up the member for Cook in order to prop up this government.

This is a government that has no plans for Queensland. It does not want to be held to account in the very place it needs to be held to account by Westminster convention: the parliament. This is a government that instead has gone out with more than 60 reviews in search of a policy in search of a plan. This is a government that does not even have an infrastructure plan. This is a government that is relying on the infrastructure plans that were put in place by the previous government. This is a government that has no standards in regard to the members of parliament on their side who are propping them up.