




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Treasurer

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.21 am): It is clear that this inexperienced government and this clumsy Treasurer's handling of the economy are having a disastrous impact on business confidence. Instead of behaving like the state's chief financial officer, we have had the bumbling amateur magician—fumbling with a coin trick he has been practising since he was a boy. Then he criticised the federal budget, but said it is not actually that bad and he is asking for more detail.

Who will ever forget the classic rookie error—fiddling the figures to claim Queensland was in recession. This howler has been met with a chorus of condemnation from some of Australia's brightest economic minds, including the federal Treasurer, the Queensland Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other major business groups.

In the words of Mark Ludlow from the *Financial Review*, the Treasurer's comments spectacularly backfired. He stated—

It has only given the jitters to an already edgy business community. They fear risk-averse new Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk is keeping the economy in a 'holding pattern' with no new big infrastructure projects ...

The latest Sensis survey of small and medium businesses shows confidence has slumped in Queensland since the election of this government. Under the LNP, attitudes and confidence in Queensland were the highest in the country. After just three months under Labor, attitudes had dropped 30 points—down to the second lowest level in the country. There we have it! Queensland leading the nation under the LNP and in one quarter under Labor we are now battling South Australia for the bottom spot.

More concerning than the actual results from the actual survey conducted by Sensis was the Premier's response to them. What did the member for Inala say? As the Leader of the Opposition said, she dismissed the report and its findings. She flat out rejected it. She chose to ignore what the business community is telling her. She had exactly the same response to last month's CCIQ Pulse Survey of Business Conditions which showed business conditions were at the lowest level in a decade. Is it any wonder that businesses in Queensland have no confidence in this Premier when she flat out refuses to listen to what they are telling her. Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland general manager of advocacy, Nick Behrens, has called on the Palaszczuk government to be positive about the state's economy.

Instead, we have a Treasurer who cannot explain the prospective changes to government ownership of GOCs, government owned corporations. We have a Treasurer who, according to the *Courier-Mail* today, is rewriting the rules to support his union mates. The question is: who is supporting him? It is clear the people of Queensland do not have any faith in him. Now it looks like his own party do not believe in him.

The clock is ticking. We have six weeks until the budget is handed down. There are six weeks for the Treasurer to show his hand on how he is going to drive down debt without raising taxes and charges. Let us hope he gets the training wheels off in time to do this or we risk Queensland becoming the economic laughing-stock of the nation.

The first decision that we saw from this government in terms of increasing taxes and charges was the doubling of the CPI rate for car registration. It really is not good enough.