




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Queensland Economy, Infrastructure Projects

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.55 pm): No matter how much the Deputy Premier wants to say that there is no infrastructure freeze, ask the people at the Civil Contractors Federation. Ask the people in business whether they are very confident about the future. No matter how much the Premier, Treasurer and Deputy Premier might like to ignore it, business confidence has slumped under this do-nothing government and Queensland's economy is suffering because of it. Members of the Premier's own Business Advisory Council have pleaded with her to act, as the Queensland economy stalls under her leadership. Business leaders want to see the Premier step up and make decisions, not just wind back the clock.

Unfortunately, the Premier, Treasurer and Deputy Premier are more focused on day-to-day politics than outlining their economic vision. Not only that; they refuse to see the writing on the wall. Only yesterday the Treasurer stood in this place talking about the latest NAB business confidence survey. Not once did he mention that business confidence fell by six points last month. Only Western Australia fared worse than Queensland.

That is not the only report highlighting the lack of confidence in the direction this government is taking Queensland. The census survey of small and medium sized businesses shows that net confidence in Queensland is the lowest in the nation. Confidence in government policies has plummeted since the election. Both the Premier and the small business minister have trumpeted the CCIQ pulse survey for the June quarter, which showed business confidence in Queensland slightly improving. They ignore the fact that confidence had rebounded off record lows. They ignore the fact that we are well into negative territory. They ignore the fact the survey shows for every person who is confident in the direction of the Queensland economy there are two who think we are going backwards. How can businesses have confidence in this government when we have a Treasurer who is more interested in performing magic coin tricks in parliament than building the economy? How can businesses have confidence in a Treasurer who comes into the place and talks about Queensland being in a recession without even realising the recklessness of this statement?

Two weeks ago the Australian Bureau of Statistics released state final demand figures for the June quarter. Those figures showed Queensland's domestic economic performance was the weakest of all Australian states. When the Premier was asked about the figures she could not acknowledge the problem. She could not even get the numbers right. She tried to fire back at the LNP using old figures, not even realising these figures get revised by the ABS. That is the problem with this government. They are too focused on reviews, on winding back the clock and on playing politics than doing the hard work to take this state forward.

Rather than talking down the economy, I am just repeating what people are saying to me out in the community. I am simply pointing out what the Premier's own advisers are telling her: get on with it. Stop delaying projects and start delivering. Stop the infrastructure freeze. Stop focusing on day-to-day politics and start coming up with a plan for Queensland's future and the real economy.