




Speech By  
**John-Paul Langbroek**  
**MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Business Confidence**

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.15 am): Is it any wonder that Queensland consumers and business operators have no confidence in the ability of this government to make decisions? Six months after we said that the energy companies should not be appealing the Australian Energy Regulator decision—and I think we moved a motion in this House to that effect, when the energy minister said he was unable to do so because they had to go about the process—we have seen today the Premier and the energy minister coming in, hand on heart, trying to say, 'We're really helping consumers because that's what we've done today. Today we've made a direction that says they are not going to appeal those decisions.' We asked them to do that months ago and they were not able to do it.

It does not matter whether you are a consumer, a small business operation or a large business operator, you would have seen today's press release from the Treasurer about a second report this week—this time it was the Sensis Business Index—showing that Queensland business confidence is continuing to be amongst the lowest in the nation. Under the LNP government, it was the highest in the nation, but of course after 31 January business confidence went over a cliff. This was the second report, because this week we also had the CommSec report which also showed that we are a third-tier economy. We do not want to talk the economy down, but it is the Treasurer who puts out releases—

**Mr Pitt** interjected.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** Well, that is what the CommSec report says. The Treasurer put out a press release today that only a Labor Treasurer could. His press release hailed a report that shows that 12 per cent of businesses are supportive of this government's policies—I repeat: 12 per cent of businesses are supportive of this government's policies—while more than a third of businesses think the government's policies are working against them.

The Treasurer mentioned that the confidence index for small to medium businesses in Queensland was positive 25 points. That is below the national average. Since the election of the Palaszczuk government, we have seen that attitudes to state government policies have gone from a rating of plus six to a rating of negative 22. Queensland was seen as the most supportive state in Australia for small and medium businesses under the LNP; now we are ranked second lowest. When it came to estimates, we had our shadow minister asking the Minister for Small Business about whether there was going to be any more red-tape reductions, and we had the business minister having a brawl with CCIQ about whether the red-tape removal that we were advocating was something that the minister said was being done in-house by public servants who were getting rid of the odd word here or there. Small business clearly says that they would like to see the removal of red tape and more incentives.

**Ms Jones** interjected.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** This Treasurer said that the giving of payroll tax incentives for apprentices is a sign of what they are giving as incentives. That leaves thousands of businesses who are never going to receive that incentive because there are thousands of businesses that do not pay payroll tax.

This is a government that is making it up as it goes along. Queensland deserves a lot better. We are out there making sure that we are listening and providing policies that will give Queensland what they want and need.

*(Time expired)*