




Speech By
Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

Record of Proceedings, 21 May 2015

MOTION: STATE FINANCES

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (6.15 pm): I rise this evening to oppose this notice of motion. In doing so, I say that what we see here this evening is yet another stitch-up of the shadow Treasurer, the member for Surfers Paradise, by the member for Clayfield, who pines for his old portfolio. The member for Surfers Paradise is not having a good day at all. He is not even in the chamber to listen to the debate. Just this morning we saw him tie himself up in knots trying to deny—

Mr RICKUSS: Mr Speaker—

Mr SPEAKER: There is a point of order. Pause the clock. I call the member for Lockyer.

Mr RICKUSS: I rise to a point of order. It is unparliamentary to refer to people's absences from the chamber.

Mr FURNER: I am reflecting on him, but not—

Mr SPEAKER: It is unparliamentary to refer to a member's absence.

Mr FURNER: I withdraw. The member for Surfers Paradise is not having a good day all around. Just this morning we saw him tie himself up in knots trying to deny verified, independent and longstanding data from Treasury. Data that the member for Clayfield himself stated is the acceptable measure is now being ignored by the current shadow Treasurer, the member for Clayfield. He was trying to claim that black was white despite all evidence to the contrary. This motion is yet—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker—

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. What is your point of order, member for Clayfield?

Mr NICHOLLS: I rise to a point of order. The member has incorrectly referred to me as the shadow Treasurer. If he wants to get his story right, he should do so and refer to the member for Surfers Paradise as the shadow Treasurer.

Mr SPEAKER: I call the member.

Mr FURNER: This motion is yet another misstep by the member for Surfers Paradise because, as we have heard already, the brief they are calling for does not even exist. It does not exist just like the concocted need to sell our income-generating assets did not exist. The brief does not even exist, just like the trumped up basis of their Commission of Audit did not exist. Rather than asking the government for briefs that did not exist, the member for Surfers Paradise should have been paying attention when he sat around at the cabinet table. The member should have been paying attention when he agreed to spend \$70 million of taxpayer funds—potentially going up to \$250 million—on preparatory work to sell assets. Maybe the member wants a brief on fiscal—

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Chatsworth, I give you notice that if you persist to interject, I will make a ruling under standing order 253A. I call the member.

Mr FURNER: Maybe the member wants a brief on fiscal repair because his side does not have a plan of their own. Slashing jobs, cutting services and selling assets is not a plan at all.

Honourable members can see from the figures released today that, under the LNP, Queensland's gross state product declined by 0.6 per cent in the last three years of 2014 following a 0.2 per cent contraction in the previous three months. The decline of 0.6 per cent under the LNP is the largest drop in the 30 years in which Treasury has been compiling this data.

When it comes to fiscal repair and economic competence those opposite do not have the ticker; they never have and never will. The member for Clayfield thought he had a magic bullet called asset sales, but the people of Queensland thought otherwise. In stark contrast, we will present an honest budget with honest fiscal principles and we will restore economic confidence and economic growth in Queensland. The Palaszczuk Labor government is adhering to five fiscal principles for the responsible and measured management of the state's finances which were clearly articulated before the election: (1) maintain a general government sector net operating surplus over the economic cycle; (2) pay down general government sector debt by \$5.4 billion over six years with a target of paying down \$12 billion of general government debt over 10 years; (3) borrowing in the general government sector will be strictly managed for new infrastructure so as to be serviced with a general government net operating surplus target while also ensuring a constant flow of works to support jobs and the economy and mitigate against a backlog of necessary works emerging; (4) maintain competitive taxation by ensuring the government general sector's own service revenue remains at or below 8.5 per cent of nominal gross state product on average over the forward estimates; (5) targeting full funding of long-term liabilities such as superannuation and WorkCover in accordance with actuarial advice.

We have the measures and we have the responsible plan for the management of the state's finances. We will promote growth and economic opportunities and we will be the powerhouse of this nation, unlike those opposite who are inept and incompetent and who failed in their roles—unlike those opposite, who ask for briefs that do not exist and have no plan for the Queensland economy. That is why they lost government! That is why they are sitting on that side of the chamber this evening! That is why they were thrown out!