




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 25 February 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.33 am): Honourable members are preparing to return to their electorates after the first two sitting weeks of this year. The 89 of us have been sent to this place to make Queensland a better place—a place where there are more opportunities for work, a place where our citizens are safe and a place where we have compassion for one another. What members can tell their constituents they have been a part of over the last fortnight depends on where they sit in this House. Government members have been part of a solid fortnight of delivery.

Government members can tell their constituents that just some of the achievements of the last two weeks include work to support the creation of 71,700 new jobs across Queensland since the election; the release of economic data that showed Queensland's economy growing faster than the rest of the nation; the extension of the Accelerated Works Program to more than \$400 million in projects and more than 900 full-time-equivalent jobs; laws to curb alcohol fuelled violence on our streets; the passing of Australia's strongest restrictions on smoking; our commitment to three new schools—Yarrabilba, Coomera and Caloundra South—and an autism hub to improve the education outcomes for more Queenslanders; our assigning of the Working Queensland cabinet committee to focus on more local projects and local jobs around the state before the budget; the bring forward of the \$70 million second round of the Building Our Regions infrastructure fund; the announcement of funding for the second round of Skilling Queenslanders for Work, our vital job-creating initiative across Queensland; the confirmation of more international flights, bringing more tourism dollars and opportunities for Queenslanders; and our move to restore the rights of landholders to protect their key farm infrastructure from mining and restore the rights of community members to object to projects.

We have worked with the members for Mount Isa and Dalrymple to bring the Working Queensland cabinet committee to their electorates. We will prioritise mental health in the next state budget and we will extend the powers of courts to impose banning orders on persons convicted of drug offences in safe night precincts, subject to consultation with stakeholders. The member for Dalrymple also made the very sensible suggestion about the purchase of fresh milk by government departments and agencies.

It is the members of the opposition who must be wary of returning to their electorates. What can they tell their electorates? The LNP believes that rumour and innuendo is of greater importance than jobs and economic development. The LNP believes that the status quo in terms of alcohol fuelled violence is adequate, despite the evidence, recent deaths and serious injuries. The LNP believes that

the admonishment of one of its members by the Speaker for deliberately misleading is a frivolous event, although it has not occurred in this House for 20 years. The LNP believes—at least some do—that the member for Southern Downs should remain their leader, despite at least two senior members wanting to flee to Canberra and others plotting against him. My government has a positive plan for Queensland. We are yet to hear any positive plans from those opposite.