




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 17 August 2016

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Jobs

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (6.06 pm): I rise to oppose the motion. On this side of the House we stand for jobs. We understand how important the dignity of work is for every day Queenslanders. There is nothing more important and there is nothing that keeps me awake more at night than thinking about how many more jobs we can create for Queenslanders right across this state.

Our budget clearly demonstrated that we had a slowing economy in regional Queensland. That is why we put in place our \$100 million Back to Work program. The Minister for Employment has advised me that there are a lot of applications. Within two weeks we already have 26 people who have been employed and 16 people pending involvement.

If anything, what we should see from those opposite is an apology to the people of Queensland—an apology for cutting jobs right throughout this state. Some 14,000 public servant jobs were slashed in Tim Nicholls's first budget. Where is Tim Nicholls, the member for Clayfield, now? He is now the Leader of the Opposition. He was the architect and responsible for taking the axe to the Public Service. Not only that, he cut front-line services.

What have we as a Labor government been committed to? We have committed to restoring front-line services throughout this state—more nurses, more doctors, more ambulance officers, more police. That is what my government is firmly committed to. That is why our budget was firmly focused on advancing our innovation agenda, growing the economy by investment and trade and building the infrastructure we need for the growing state of Queensland.

We will always stand up for jobs in this state. I have travelled out west and spoken to those in rural and regional communities. We have a strong drought package in place—the largest drought package that Queensland has ever seen. It was delivered not by an LNP government but by a Labor government because we care about the bush. We care about all Queenslanders no matter where they live. What else did we do? We stopped asset sales which would have seen more jobs lost throughout this state. That is what we have seen.

Over the holiday breaks we have seen through our school maintenance program jobs that have kept tradies employed. It has allowed tradies to employ more people in our schools. The tradies who have spoken to me have told me very clearly that they would not have been able to keep people employed in their small regional communities if it were not for the school maintenance program that we put in place.

I find it ironic that the member for Indooroopilly has the hide to stand in this chamber and even mention the word 'jobs' because when he was transport minister 606 positions were cut from RoadTek across the state—606. You should hang your head in shame. I do not forget any minute of when we

sat opposite for three years—seven of us then eight and then nine against the whole lot—and we stood up for everyday Queenslanders. We took the fight up to them. Look at this Labor government now—fighting the fight, standing up for Queenslanders, building infrastructure, delivering for Queenslanders no matter where they live.

Mr Emerson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Premier, I apologise for interrupting your speech. Member for Indooroopilly, you had a very good go with your contribution. It was only towards the end of your speech that there were some interjections. I urge members to be consistent.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Just on Sunday there was the announcement of the \$1.1 billion investment by Australian Unity—700 jobs in construction happening in the south-east. That is what this government stands for. We stand for delivery. We stand for delivering those front-line services. Let me say it very clearly: we stand for jobs, jobs, jobs, jobs, jobs and more jobs. I will back my record against your record any day of the week—14,000 jobs cut, slowing the economy down. Every single one of you should hang your head in shame. At the end of the day, the Queensland public spoke. They spoke through the ballot box. They spoke at—

(Time expired)