




Speech By
Brittany Lauga

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

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MOTION: SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (6.17 pm): Here we are in the first sitting week of 2016 and you would think that those opposite would want to make the private member's motion about the big issues for Queenslanders—something about growing the economy, creating jobs or tackling important social issues. But, no. The first private member's motion from the opposition is about changing the parliamentary standing orders, which makes no procedural sense at all. It wants to amend laws that were debated in this place and passed just four months ago. That, to be frank, is pathetic. Where are they getting their material from? I think they all need a new—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. One moment, member.

Mrs LAUGA: I think they all need a new private member's motion writer. What about a motion which calls on the Prime Minister to reverse the \$6 billion in cuts to Queensland's state, Catholic and independent schools? What about a motion which condemns the federal funding cuts to tourism marketing which will harm Queensland's growing tourism industry and threaten local jobs? Perhaps a motion to stop the federal government's planned \$18 billion in cuts to Queensland Health and education? There are some good ideas for them, because based on what they have produced today they certainly need some help.

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, one moment. Pause the clock. Member for Toowoomba North, I can hardly hear the member speaking. I would prefer not to put you on a warning, so perhaps if this can be a preliminary notice. Unless the member says something provocative, I certainly want to hear what the member has to say.

Mrs LAUGA: I think they certainly need some help. If they would like to make an appointment, I would be more than happy to make myself available to provide some advice. I am sure we would be able to come up with something better than this motion.

Mr SPEAKER: Please, do not provoke the opposition.

Mrs LAUGA: Regardless of the opposition's frivolous motion, the Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job. We will not let a trivial private member's motion, which makes no procedural sense at all, hinder this government's determination to get on with the job. We will continue with fortitude to deliver for Queenslanders, to implement our election commitments, to restore front-line services, to protect the Great Barrier Reef and to bring integrity and accountability back to government. After three years of threats and cuts under the former LNP government, we will continue to restore confidence, hope and opportunity. We know that these are the big issues for Queenslanders.

This motion, moved by the member for Mansfield, demonstrates clearly that the opposition is not focused on jobs or the economy whatsoever. It is clear that the opposition has lost its way and, quite simply, has lost touch with Queenslanders.

The Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job of implementing its election commitments, including putting an immediate stop to the LNP's asset sales program—something, it seems, that the member for Southern Downs is keen to put back on the agenda. This government is delivering. It is advancing Queensland. In its first 12 months in office, the Palaszczuk Labor government has delivered increased employment, economic growth and exports as well as boosted services with more teachers, police and nurses. Compared to 12 months ago, Queensland has over 60,000 more jobs. Queensland's unemployment rate is at a two-year low.

Despite the LNP's wild and baseless claims about economic performance as part of its deliberate campaign to talk down our state, in news hot off the press today, the latest data from the independent Queensland Treasury shows that, for the year to the September quarter 2015, Queensland's gross state product—a key measure of economic growth—accelerated to 2.6 per cent. We have 290 extra teachers in our classrooms, an extra 266 police are being recruited this year and funding has been committed for 16 new nurse educators and 400 new nurse navigators. In addition to its own \$10.1 billion Capital Works Program, the Palaszczuk government is working with the private sector to generate economic activity, which will support 27,000 jobs this financial year.

Queenslanders have a government that they can believe in and a government that believes in them. It was only a matter of days after the Palaszczuk government was formed that a category 5 tropical cyclone hit Central Queensland. It was a baptism by cyclone. But that did not stop the Premier, her cabinet and this government from hitting the ground running. The Palaszczuk government got on with the job by responding swiftly to ensure that those most in need had immediate assistance. In the days, weeks and months after the cyclone, the Premier and her cabinet visited Central Queensland numerous times.

Mr WATTS: Mr Speaker I rise on a point of order in regard to relevance. I understand that cyclones are a terrible natural disaster—

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order. Please resume your seat.

Mrs LAUGA: Financial assistance for personal hardship, the reconnection of essential services and the restoration of essential public assets and infrastructure was made available. The Palaszczuk government helped our community bridge the gap between emergency response and recovery, building back not just our homes and community but Central Queensland's confidence, giving us the resilience that was needed to move on with our lives. The Palaszczuk government promised to be behind Central Queensland every step of the way and the Palaszczuk government did just that.

We went to an election promising a better way for Queensland and, 12 months on, I think that Queensland is a better place. I do not support the member's motion.