




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2016

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Budget

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (2.56 pm): Today is the day after the 2016 state budget. I have reflected on the days following other state budgets in Queensland. Honourable members might remember what happened the day after the first Newman-Nicholls budget in 2012. Outside this building 8,000 to 10,000 Queenslanders rallied to protest the first budget handed down by Tim Nicholls. Honourable members might remember that. As the honourable member for Ashgrove might know, those rallies started in a park in Ashgrove and occurred simultaneously across Queensland—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I do not mind someone making an interjection if it is relevant, but I am not going to tolerate members just shouting and carrying on to the point that I cannot even hear what the minister is saying. That is my last comment in relation to unruly behaviour.

Mr DICK: There were rallies across the state—in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay and two on the Sunshine Coast alone. What did a manager in the LNP government say to workers? 'You, you and you have got jobs and the rest of you have lost yours.' What did one of the speakers at the rally of between 8,000 and 10,000 people outside this parliament say? 'Our workers are not numbers on a spreadsheet for Tim Nicholls.' Of course, inside the parliament the biggest debate was how many staff were going to be sacked from the Department of Health.

What about Budget Paper No. 2 in 2012, signed and authorised by the member for Clayfield? It contained provision for 4,140 full-time-equivalent redundancies in Queensland Health in 2013-14. Thank heavens the workers' friend the member for Southern Downs stood up and said, 'No, it's not 4,140. It's only 2,754. That is the number we are going to sack.' That is the legacy of those members. Flash forward: there was no change in the member for Clayfield. What happened in 2014? He flagged selling \$35 billion in state assets and also cut subsidies to pensioners and seniors. That is what he did. That is his form.

We know that the member for Clayfield was Campbell Newman's cutter in chief. That is what he was. That was his legacy as Treasurer and unless he says sorry to the people of Queensland we know nothing has changed. In less than 24 hours when he comes in here and does his budget reply he has the chance to apologise to the people of Queensland. How is he going to reduce debt without cutting services and jobs? How is he going to reduce state debt without reducing public assets and selling them? He must promise no job cuts. He must promise no asset sales or otherwise Queenslanders will get what they got before from a government led by the member for Clayfield—an anvil dropped on the Queensland economy, a wrecking ball through public services, including health services, in Queensland and thousands of Queenslanders left distraught and diminished because he has sacked them from the Public Service.

Honourable members interjected.