




Speech By
Hon. Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

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MOTION: PALASZCZUK LABOR GOVERNMENT, PERFORMANCE

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (6.05 pm): I directly quote the member for Callide when he said this morning that if you want to be a headkicker you need to practise in the mirror. I think the member for Nanango needs to do a bit more practice if she wants to be a headkicker.

This is the laziest motion I have seen in this House. Ordinarily members take advantage of these opportunities to put some rigour and detail and thought into their private member's motion. That is not what we have seen tonight. We have seen nothing but negativity. It is the same thing we see continually from those opposite. They are now in their fifth year of negativity. I have not heard the shadow Treasurer say one decent positive thing about the Queensland economy since he has been in the job. Maybe he will surprise us one day, but that certainly is not what we see.

I oppose the motion, which refers to a 'litany of failures'. I know of some failures from the other side of the House. They have a very long and poor record. I refer to 1 William Street, which we will be moving into. Some of us already have moved in. This project is one of the worst financial disasters in the state's history. We know that they sold seven CBD office buildings for \$237 million less than their book value. Now we will be saddled with vacant floors—three to nine over 15 years. If you add it up you will see that we will be paying in excess of \$1.5 billion over the next 15 years. This is a terrible deal for Queenslanders. It is the legacy of the Leader of the Opposition when he was the treasurer.

Those opposite all expected that they could just coast through the last election. How do we know that? They were so sure they would win that, even though they said they would ask people's permission to sell assets, they got \$250 million preapproved—on the credit card—by the Governor in Council to spend on the asset sales process. That is how cocksure they were that they would win the last election. Queenslanders saw through it. Instead of talking up the economy and trying to grow the economy during their three years in office, they spent the entire time talking the joint down. That erodes confidence. We on this side of the House have rebuilt confidence.

I have heard those opposite time and time again selectively pick from surveys. They fail to look at surveys like the NAB Monthly Business Survey, which has been consistent. Since the 2015-16 budget was handed down what have been seen? We have led that survey or been equal first. This survey is at least consistent—more consistent than anything we have seen from those opposite.

I have referred to the preapproval of \$250 million for asset sales that the opposition leader got when he was treasurer. Let us talk about the \$100 million they actually spent. This was at a time when they were telling Queenslanders they had to tighten their belts. People were being sacked left, right and centre. We saw 14,000 people go in the first budget.

At that time those opposite were spending \$20 million on an advertising campaign which ultimately was all about Strong Choices—that is, the Strongest and Smartest Choice. We found out later that Strong Choices was the wrong choices. It was absolutely wrong. It was never going to fly

because people in Queensland had made their position very clear when it came to asset sales in this state. However, what we have not seen from those opposite is any positivity. If they want to talk about a litany of failures, they need look no further than the Leader of the Opposition when as treasurer he was the able lieutenant to Campbell Newman, who was shown the door—quite rightly—by Queenslanders in general and in particular in the electorate of Ashgrove. We are very thankful to have the member for Ashgrove, Kate Jones, as the member who actually cares about her electorate.

Again, there has been no mention from those opposite about the 40,400 net new jobs we have created since coming to office—none of that. This morning I challenged the shadow Treasurer to come up with a way to spin the negativity around the very positive preliminary growth figures of 3.2 per cent. All he could say was, 'It's been reduced. It's been forecast down.' He still cannot get over the fact that in the last full year in government that those opposite had—the 2014-15 year—what did they have? They had growth of 0.8 per cent. If those opposite want to talk about litanies of failure, they really need to have a good look in their own backyard before throwing rocks over this side of the House.