




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.47 am): I acknowledge in the gallery students from a school in the electorate of Beaudesert. It is wonderful to see these young people of regional Queensland come to parliament.

In the past 18 months, this Palaszczuk Labor government has completely failed Queenslanders, whether in managing the state's finances, growing the economy, encouraging foreign investment in this great state or building productivity and boosting infrastructure. As I travel around Queensland and listen to everyday people, particularly in rural and regional Queensland, I hear the common tale that this government is completely asleep at the wheel and that Queensland is moving backwards while all other states are moving forward. More and more people are moving across the border—deserting Queensland—because of this asleep-at-the-wheel Labor government.

The numbers from the ABS do not lie. As much as the Labor government tries to deny these figures, Queensland's domestic economy has shrunk every quarter under this Palaszczuk Labor government. Tens of thousands of jobs have been lost in Queensland since this Palaszczuk Labor government came to power. Regional areas such as Cairns, Mackay, Townsville and outback Queensland are hurting with job losses while statewide youth unemployment has jumped to 15 per cent. As I mentioned earlier, the youth unemployment rate in areas like the outback is double that.

Activity in the mining sector has halved in the past 12 months and total capital expenditure in Queensland is down \$12.2 billion or 32 per cent in the year to March 2016. In the past 18 months Labor has not commenced work on one significant infrastructure project that the LNP whilst in government did not already announce. The Palaszczuk Labor government's flagship \$20 million Building Queensland is yet to deliver a business case or a pipeline of projects. The Building Queensland website does not even list a regional project on it—that is, unless you count the Beerburrum to Nambour rail upgrade project but, again, this is hardly regional, again proving that Labor is not a party for all of Queensland. Labor has not created a single job from its signature \$40 million Jobs Queensland statutory authority.

It seems that Labor's Attorney-General can move amendments to fundamentally change our voting rights in Queensland in just 18 minutes but she cannot even appoint a board within 18 months. What has the Attorney-General been able to do for this signature policy for the last 12 months given it is budget day today? What has she done? She has been able to put in place an interim reference group—still not a board and still not appointed anyone to the job. We have no idea where that money has been spent, but it certainly has not been spent setting up the Rural Jobs Agency. I found that in the government's budget papers last year—those opposite stood in this House and they raved about it and said how wonderful it was—but not one minister has even made a ministerial statement on the Rural

Jobs Agency. Nowhere on any website can we find anything about a Rural Jobs Agency. For the youth unemployed in outback Queensland and the youth unemployed in my electorate of Nanango and the unemployed youth all across Queensland, particularly in the rural and regional areas, I ask: where is this government helping them?

It is also incredible given the fragile Queensland economy that in the same week that Labor announces two new trade offices to try to encourage foreign investment into this great state—one in China and one in Singapore—two days later the Treasurer stands up and says, 'We're going to break that election commitment and we're going to impose a new tax on foreign investment.' How does that encourage foreign investment and trade in this great state? We have already seen this fragile confidence in our property and construction sector and now the government is attacking any form of foreign investment into this wonderful state. It really does beg the question: does the government even understand the impact of this tax? It is going to mean less tradies and less real estate agents because they will not be able to make a living due to this new tax.