




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Jobs

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.21 am): Today I rise to reflect on the last 12 months since the last budget and what that has meant for jobs in rural and regional Queensland. Twelve months ago we sat here and listened to the Premier, the Deputy Premier, every minister and all backbenchers use the catchcry, 'Jobs now and jobs for the future.' What have we seen 12 months on? It is all talk and no action.

An opposition member: A lot of hot air.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: There is a lot of hot air. The figures speak for themselves. In rural and regional Queensland we are seeing astronomical youth unemployment rates and our youth unemployment rates are the second highest in Australia. That is what this Palaszczuk Labor government has done to the youth of Queensland. In Cairns, for example, there have been 1,200 fewer people with jobs in the past 12 months. In the Fitzroy region 800 fewer people have jobs. In Ipswich there are 1,000 fewer people with jobs than 12 months ago. All we are hearing—and we have heard it again this morning—is all talk and simply no action, and we have proof: the government's signature jobs policy does not even have a website. We discovered that over the weekend. The government has also announced the Rural Jobs Agency, yet there has never been a ministerial statement about that in this House. This morning I did some googling to try to find where the Rural Jobs Agency is at a time when there is 33 per cent unemployment in the outback. Regional members such as the member for Gregory and the member for Warrego are feeling this out there with their constituents. When they stand in this House—

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: One moment. Pause the clock. Minister for Health, if you persist you will be warned under standing order 253A. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition has the opportunity to speak, as will other members.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The Minister for Health obviously has not spent much time in the regions.

Mr SPEAKER: Please do not provoke the minister.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Today we wait again. Where is the Rural Jobs Agency that was talked about in last year's budget? Twelve months on, it is all talk and absolutely no action. We know that this Premier does not support jobs for the regions. She cannot even get in a candidate for the Toowoomba South by-election. That is a complete rejection of rural and regional Queensland. If you cannot even represent a seat like Toowoomba South, how is the rest of regional and rural Queensland feeling when there is no plan for rural and regional Queensland?