




Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**

**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 August 2016

**MOTION: DEPUTY PREMIER, BUSINESS CONFIDENCE**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (6.20 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the shadow Treasurer. Throughout her contribution the Deputy Premier asked what people in the community were saying. I have here a few quotes that I thought might be relevant. Due to the actions of this Palaszczuk government, the Property Council of Queensland has recently stated—

The Queensland Government's decision to pursue a ministerial call-in for the West Village development at West End is yet another blow to the confidence of Queensland's property industry.

Whether the Deputy Premier proceeds with the call in or not, this announcement will impact on the industry's confidence to invest in Queensland ...

The Housing Industry Association Queensland executive director said that the combination of policy changes from the state government was hurting the industry at a time when the industry was plateauing. He said, 'It has to be putting jobs and investment at risk.'

This new rip-up mentality is risking our jobs, our prosperity and the future of Queensland. This Palaszczuk Labor government has a new weapon of mass economic destruction in its arsenal: giving up on existing deals with the private sector if it suits it politically. No contract is safe anymore under Labor, as we have seen in the reckless acts of ripping up contracts with the private sector. We saw it four weeks ago when the Palaszczuk government terminated an \$800 million social housing initiative and again when the member representing West End threatened to call in the inner-city residential project West Village after it received full council approval and after onsite earthworks had begun. Is it any coincidence that the West End project is in the Deputy Premier's own electorate, where Queensland's first-ever Greens councillor was elected at the recent local government elections and polling is now indicating that the Deputy Premier is under significant threat?

We have seen this Labor style before—this rip-up mentality. We saw it in Victoria when Labor's Daniel Andrews reneged on the \$1.1 billion East West Link contract. Brisbane's failed Labor mayoral candidate Rod Harding also promised to rip up the \$650 million Kingsford Smith Drive upgrade if elected.

Infrastructure projects should not be subject to political debate when billions of dollars of taxpayers' money is at stake. Indeed, as the Palaszczuk government's botched and still secret Cross River Rail business case shows, big infrastructure spends do need proper scrutiny. The debate should be fierce, but once a contractual commitment has been made it certainly should be honoured. Taxpayers rightly have an expectation that their money will not be wasted by paying compensation to terminate contractual rights, like the \$400 million Labor's Daniel Andrews spent cancelling the East West Link project.

Of course, taxpayers are not just paying to terminate contracts. All of these acts turn up the dial on sovereign risk in Australia. Precedents set by the Deputy Premier mean that sovereign risk is alive and well, unfortunately. Labor has increased this risk for Queensland. Any investor, whether in Australia, Hong Kong, Zurich or New York, is rightly adjusting the risk of doing business here in Queensland. That is also the case for investors from New South Wales and Victoria. The investment capital that moves based on their assessments is not faithful or nostalgic; it is looking for the best risk-reward outcome. With higher risk comes either forgone investment or higher returns to compensate for this risk. Unfortunately, what we have seen by this Deputy Premier and the Palaszczuk government is putting everything at risk here in Queensland.

Queensland needs a government that is prepared to make decisions in the best interests of all Queenslanders, not just in the political interests of those making those decisions to save their own seat in West End.