




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Record of Proceedings, 16 February 2016

MOTION: SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (6.28 pm): Here we are, on the first sitting day for 2016, and the opposition brains trust is back in fine form in trying to revisit a question that the House has already dealt with. It is obvious that this motion needs to be thrown out. I urge the House to reject this motion, which was moved by the member for Mansfield. As I have previously explained—and maybe I have to spell it out a lot clearer—this is an attempt to overturn principles established by over 400 years of parliamentary practice. The conservatives are the ones who are tossing parliamentary practice out the window and they want to do that just to score cheap political points. They know that they will not be successful, because four months ago we debated these matters and their line of thinking was rejected.

We can dismiss the motion as just another stunt from a tired opposition. Given that it is the first day back in this place and the opposition has barrelled in this stale idea, I thought we could reflect on our summer break. I think we all know how opposition members spent their summer holidays. There was the member for Mansfield locked away in his office huddled over his copy of the TURC report, flicking through *Hansard* digging up last year's bill. That is his solution. It is a great example of last year's ideas from yesterday's man. The poor old member for Southern Downs, the Eeyore of Queensland politics—everything is sad, nothing is going well—what was he doing over the summer holiday? I have an exclusive picture to show the House of a top-secret strategy meeting. Here he is with a moth! I have never seen him happier than he is with the moth. You can see why. If you looked around him when he was in the chamber here you can see how happy he must be turning up to work every day and seeing this lot around him. The moth would be a highlight of his day.

If those opposite want to revisit something in this parliament, they should revisit the economic vandalism conducted last year over Queensland's \$2 billion sugar industry. The damage those opposite did last year to Queensland's \$2 billion sugar industry is the economic vandalism that has cost Queensland's economy millions in lost investment, not our industrial relations arrangements. The sorts of attacks that were made on our sugar industry by those opposite last year were a shame. That is the sort of thing we could revisit. But the way our rules work we will not be revisiting that. Those opposite should get their friends in Canberra to do it. Maybe they will have an extra friend down there with Jeff as the member for Wide Bay pretty soon. Maybe he can help the opposition overturn it. I know he has been in and out of the place doing the numbers on that. We should make sure that we look at those issues. I am not surprised that we are not seeing anything new. It is the same tired old routine that we see from the opposition. I thought they would shake things up and come out with something new, but they have not. It is the same tired old group. The Leader of the Opposition has been three times tested and three times he has failed.

Today's state accounts tell the narrative of what the government did over the summer. We got on with the job. Queensland is outstripping the national average for gross state product growth; over 60,000 jobs have been created; our business confidence is leading the nation; we have a \$10 billion

Capital Works Program supporting 27,000 jobs; investment in dwellings is the highest since 2010—higher than it was under the LNP; average quarter-on-quarter growth is higher than it was under the LNP; and households are spending \$8 billion extra a year compared with when the LNP were in government. Consumers are voting with their wallets with confidence in the Queensland economy and this government. Look at the statistics: unemployment is down; jobs are up; debt is down; investment is up; exports are up; and building approvals are up. Since becoming Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games I have been getting on with it. We are delivering for Queensland. A couple of weeks ago I was in Gladstone on Curtis Island inspecting new LNG facilities. That is a great example of what we have achieved as a Labor government. We are taking this state forward. I urge members to keep looking forward, not look back, and vote against this motion.