




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 24 February 2016

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance; Member for Mulgrave

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (2.49 pm): There is no doubt that there is a lack of economic direction in Queensland. There is no doubt that Queenslanders and Queenslanders looking for jobs are suffering as a result of the lack of a coherent economic narrative from this government and in particular from this Treasurer. Today's Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show that the value of construction work in Queensland—the mainstay of employment and jobs in Queensland—has declined by \$1.4 billion from the March-December quarter in 2015 and that Queensland was the only state in Australia to experience a decline in construction work over that period. Construction work is going south to New South Wales; construction work is going south to Victoria. The jobs are not being created here. As any member who has any relationship with contractors, constructors and major engineering companies—anyone who employs people—knows, the jobs are not here in Queensland. But we know that there is one job that is going to be going pretty soon here in the state of Queensland and that is job of the member for Mulgrave. We had an audition from the member for Stretton yesterday in the House. He came in here and spoke for three minutes on the economy. He spoke to us all about the economic figures. As much as I hate to say it and as much as any Labor member ever makes any sense about economic numbers, I have to say that the member for Stretton had it all over the member for Mulgrave—had it all over him!

But there is a bit of trouble down pit, because the member for Caloundra's little bird is whispering to me—I have the word—that the Treasurer's job will soon be being advertised for a merit based selection process. We remember when he jumped ship from the AWU in October 2014. I hear the AWU was not too happy about that. He thought the member for Woodridge or perhaps the member for Sandgate was going to get the job. So he jumped ship to the Old Guard, but the Old Guard does not like him because he is keeping out the member for Bulimba and keeping out the member for Stretton. The Left certainly do not want him! He has been in the right in the AWU. Who would want him? So in the caucus and in the party it is 'throw the balls in the air, give us any Treasurer'. That reminded me of *Weekend at Bernie's*, and we know the script where a pair of losers try to pretend that their former employer is really alive, but the reality is they are out to finish him off. He is the life of the party—well, almost!