




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 25 February 2016

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (10.21 am): All that work and the unemployment rate has gone up by half a per cent to 6.4 per cent in the last month, despite all the geniuses opposite. We have just heard from the Minister for Training about all that work, and the unemployment rate still goes up. We are six months into their Advance Queensland program, and the unemployment rate still goes up. This morning we heard the Premier deliver a ministerial statement. When I listened to the Premier, I was pushed to reflect on *Hamlet*, act III, scene II 'The lady doth protest too much, methinks'. Honourable members will know why that is. It is a sign of someone who tries to say too much about something of which the opposite is true. It is a sign that they are defensive and insincere. If ever we have seen someone who was defensive and insincere, it was the Premier this morning. We look at the reports and the figures that are coming out. We know the troops are restless. We know that the Treasurer—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Thank you, members. That is enough.

Mr NICHOLLS: We know the member for Cairns has been put on the straight and narrow. He has to go up and have a meeting with the member for Springwood. They are falling apart in the left faction. I cannot say what the member for South Brisbane thinks about the member for Cairns. We do know that ABS data shows construction work is down. Let us talk about construction work worth a supposed \$10 billion, which is \$1.4 billion less than in the 2014-15 budget of the LNP government. That is the reality: \$1.4 billion less.

Whether it is on jobs, infrastructure or confidence, the critical part of this government's failure to deliver is the member for Mulgrave. He continues to fail to deliver. Not only is he failing to deliver for all of Queensland, but also he is failing to deliver in North Queensland. There is no better example of that for North Queenslanders, and especially the people of Cairns, than the Aquis resort. The Treasurer's last announcement about Aquis was on 19 September. According to the *Cairns Post*, after Christmas his New Year priority was to get the Aquis resort up and going. Here is a picture of the Treasurer with Mr Fung promoting the resort. This project received environmental impact statement approval from us. The article stated—

An Aquis spokesman said Tony Fung and Justin Fung would not comment on Mr Pitt's advice.

They are not interested in it whatsoever.

Here are three questions the Treasurer might like to answer: has Aquis lodged a detailed proposal document; has Aquis been granted any extensions; and what is the Treasurer doing to get this project going in North Queensland?