




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2016

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Unions

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.29 am): What have we learned this week about this Labor government? We have learned this week that this is a government of the unions, by union lackeys, for union mates. We have just heard the member for Cairns tell us what goes on in the back offices of Trades Hall over there at Peel Street in South Brisbane, what goes on in the Premier's office and what goes on in the Deputy Premier's office.

We have learned that Labor ministers have had more than 350 meetings with their union mates—union mates who donated over \$2 million to state Labor. That includes the ETU, which donated almost \$42,000, and the CFMEU, which donated over \$350,000. We have learned that the deal-maker, the Deputy Premier, has hosted closed-door meetings with her union mates and everyone from the union movement who walked in.

The only market-led proposal that is being put forward by this government is the one to their union mates, who come in and talk to them all the time about the deals they want to do and the jobs they want for their friends. It does not matter whether it is Terry Mackenroth or John Battams: they are doing deals with their union mates. Instead of getting out there and meeting Queenslanders, government ministers are in there talking to the unions.

We have also learned that Labor always wants a carbon tax. It does not matter whether it is Kevin Rudd, Julia Gillard, Anastacia Palaszczuk or Bill Shorten; Labor always wants a carbon tax to push up prices for businesses and for families in Queensland.

We also know that those opposite cannot keep their policy commitments from breakfast to lunch. We know that the member for Yeerongpilly really wants a carbon tax but is afraid to say it. We know that the 'green whisperer' from Mount Coot-tha really wants a carbon tax and is prepared to say it, but he does not really want the Adani Carmichael mine but will not say that. We know that the Premier just says too much. When we looked across the chamber yesterday when she answered that question we saw everyone on the other side of the House going, 'Oh, no! Don't say it!' The media advisers had told her it was coming! She said that under no government she leads will there be a carbon tax.

What we know is that this is a government that has no plan except to increase taxes and stifle development. Only the LNP has the energy and the enthusiasm to get Queensland moving.