




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 25 May 2016

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Aurukun; Palaszczyk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (3.02 pm): As I said in Townsville last week, the situation in Aurukun is one that defies a simple or straightforward answer. Can I simply say also to Senior Sergeant McMahon, who has been appointed to the coordinator's role, that we wish him the best in dealing with an extremely difficult situation which I think has lasted for far too long and undoubtedly will take a considerable amount of work to solve. There are more important things that transcend the games and cheap political attacks of the Labor Party in this place which deserve far more time and effort than the efforts of the member for Yeerongpilly and the lamentable effort of the member for Woodridge. On that basis, let us all hope that the situation is swiftly reversed and that the children there can get the education and hope that they deserve.

If ever anyone was in doubt that this government is asleep at the wheel, the events of the last 48 hours have proved that. We have seen they are asleep at the wheel in Townsville, where the crime rate is skyrocketing. We have seen they are asleep at the wheel on the Gold Coast, where they are paying people a full day's pay and only getting a half day's work. We now know why they appointed Peter Beattie to chair the Commonwealth Games board, and that is because they need someone to go down there and gloss over the failure that is rapidly emerging and deliver a Commonwealth Games of which all Queenslanders can be proud.

We also know about their failure to deliver a budget without raiding the funds which have been set aside to meet the entitlements of Queensland government employees. We know that they have run out of options. Revenue is flatlining because business confidence in this state is down. They have run out of options because resource projects are not being built. They have run out of options because they are forcing farmers and landholders to comply with more and more red tape, and they are then not to be able to deliver the agricultural bounty of this land across the nation and across the country. We know that they are now bankrupt of ideas and are contradicting themselves. The Treasurer's own report on state finances states—

It is Queensland's policy that the funds are set aside *exclusively* for employee entitlements. They cannot be set aside exclusively for employee entitlements and also be available for debt servicing/repayment.

They are asleep at the wheel and they are not waking up anytime soon.

(Time expired)