




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.29 am): What a diatribe! It is another day and yet another independent report shows the economic failure of the Palaszczuk Labor government. Only yesterday, the Australian Bureau of Statistics released its estimate of construction work done throughout Australia, which included what is happening in Queensland. What does that report show? It shows that under this government the value of construction work done in Queensland has declined each and every quarter on both a trend and a seasonally adjusted basis.

Over the past year, the value of seasonally adjusted work done in Queensland has fallen by \$13.8 billion, which is a decline of 26.4 per cent. That means \$13.8 billion less is being spent on infrastructure, construction and engineering in this state. It means that there is \$13.8 billion less to spend on employing Queenslanders at a time when our youth unemployment rate has skyrocketed to 15 per cent. This is a time when not one job has been created in the Treasurer's own region of Cairns. Indeed, jobs have been lost and youth unemployment has gone north of 22 per cent. That will be the legacy of this failed Labor government, which is asleep at the wheel. It has no plan except—

Ms Trad interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, I urge you not to try to speak over the top of the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr NICHOLLS: This government does not have a plan to provide infrastructure. This government does not have a plan except to raid money and funds put aside to pay for long service leave and superannuation. It does not have a plan to control its own expenses. This government is firmly asleep at the wheel. In particular, young Queenslanders who, like my own kids, are looking for jobs will be worried about where those jobs will come from and what this government is doing about it.

Mr Pitt interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, one moment. Treasurer, if you persist in trying to speak over the top of the Leader of the Opposition, you will be warned.

Mr NICHOLLS: I will quote some of the figures that they do not want to talk about. Regional communities in places such as Townsville, Mackay and Cairns and smaller rural and regional towns are paying the price. In the past year, Townsville has lost 7,000 jobs and the participation rate is in freefall. As I have said, in Cairns not one job has been created and the youth unemployment rate is over 22 per cent. In the past year in Mackay, 6,000 jobs have been lost and unemployment is at 13.4 per cent. In the Fitzroy, 4,500 jobs have gone.

The government is asleep at the wheel. Business confidence plummets and every day Queenslanders are paying the price. Only the LNP can get Queensland moving.