




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 17 June 2016

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Cox, Ms J; Palaszczyk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.00 am): Before I engage in robust discussion, I also want to take a moment to express our shock and sorrow to hear of the terrible events in West Yorkshire that claimed the life of the British member of parliament, Jo Cox, early this morning Australian time. Politicians hold a privileged position in society, but there are times when expressing a clear view on behalf of either your constituents or your party or, indeed, your own beliefs, can make you a target within your own community and that is something that we should all fight against. These terrible events must only strengthen our determination to protect our precious freedoms and to never, never, never give in. We extend our deepest sympathies to Jo Cox's family—she leaves two young children behind—to the members of her party, the parliament and the British people.

What a week it has been. The end of this week cannot come quickly enough for the government in this place. We came into this place knowing we were going to see a week of raids, rip-offs and writedowns. We saw a sterling performance by the Treasurer, who got his own tax wrong by 3,000 per cent in his own hand-prepared notes and a media release where he could not even get his tax numbers right. On Monday we then had the spectacle of neither the Premier nor the Treasurer knowing how their incentive scheme would work. The Premier did not know whether it was going to be a tax break, whether it was going to be a payroll tax break or whether they were going to hand moneys over. On Monday they were as confused as the rest of Queensland was about their budget. On Tuesday we saw the worst delivery of a budget that I have ever seen in this place. There was not one iota of support from the backbench. They all sat there wondering what was going on. We were all left wondering what was happening with infrastructure. The Deputy Premier looked like she had swallowed a lemon when she found out there was only \$50 million for the most important infrastructure project in Queensland and it crashed and burnt on the launch pad. That was only Tuesday.

By Wednesday they could not understand where their superannuation money was coming from and could not explain why they ignored the State Actuary's original recommendation to only take \$2 billion. By Wednesday lunchtime their business sponsors could not even see the economic sense in their program. By Thursday the Treasurer's probably only backer, the Premier, was even refusing to say his name in this place. We also had the revelations that the government's property tax was the worst tax designed in Australia and at the same time trend unemployment was on the up. This leaky ship of Labor currently being steered by 'Captain Risky' is doomed to sink.