




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.58 pm): The bar's loss is certainly not this parliament's gain. If there was ever a demonstration of why the member for Woodridge cannot make a buck at the bar, it is because of that display and presenting as fact evidence no judge would ever accept.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, we will wait a moment. We will have some silence, please. I now call the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr NICHOLLS: That is why he hopped around. The voters of Greenslopes would not accept it as evidence, so as we all know he had to hop up to Woodridge to take a job. He may have even moved his chambers up there by now, but I am not sure because it has taken him a fair while. Then there were the affairs of the Minister for Energy and Ports, Minister Bailey, trying to distract evidence again and conveniently failing to remember the botched Solar Bonus Scheme that is costing Queenslanders \$3 billion but for which we have never heard an apology.

Worst of all, we are hearing from a transport minister who still refuses to take responsibility for his own failures. Both the transport minister and the Premier are in hiding from the media. For 48 hours they have done nothing—until 12.30 today. The only reason they had to do it today is that they sent out the acting CEO to take the flack for them and he dropped them straight in it.

This minister has spiralled from obfuscation and blame shifting to blatant falsehood, in a desperate bid to hang on to his job. Two days ago he protested that the reason for delay in the rollout of South-East Queensland's New Generation Rollingstock was so-called design issues. Lo and behold, his acting CEO told Steve Austin this morning on ABC Radio that he had sorted out the design issues last year. Steve Austin asked—

So you were aware?

The acting CEO responded—

Oh yeah, I fixed them. And the bottom line is that we were aware of all these issues on a cab mock-up. We got an independent ergonomist to have a look at the cab and they made five recommendations. Those recommendations have been implemented.

Steve Austin then asked about a cab related issue with driver sightlines. He asked whether it was a problem, as the transport minister had claimed. The acting CEO responded to Steve Austin—

Oh, I'm not going to go where the minister's gone ...

'I don't want to go there!' He continued—

... all I can say is that ... all the issues in the cabs have been ironed out.

This is an incompetent minister—a minister who cannot get the trains rolling on time. First we had trains without seats, then trains that could not go in tunnels. Now we have tunnels with no trains—

(Time expired)