




Speech By
Brittany Lauga

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Buy Queensland

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (3.32 pm): I have been standing up and fighting for buy local policies for years because I believe that every dollar spent by government should help local businesses and, in turn, local jobs and our local economy. Every dollar spent by government should support the economic resilience of Central Queensland, every dollar spent should support secure permanent jobs and every dollar spent should support the opportunity for our local kids to get ahead through training and apprenticeships. This is exactly what the Palaszczuk government's new Buy Queensland strategy is about.

The Buy Queensland strategy will help jobs, businesses and our economy in Central Queensland prosper. We are making it easier for small local businesses in Central Queensland to win government work and deliver for Central Queensland. The Palaszczuk government's new buy local strategy is supporting local industry and providing a foundation for secure, permanent jobs in Central Queensland—from apprenticeships through to advance tech and engineering. We are unashamedly tipping the balance back in favour of Queensland, because the welfare of people in our state must always be our No. 1 priority.

Our government will harness our investment to make a real difference to the lives of every Central Queenslander. We will back suppliers that act ethically, work to minimise carbon emissions, provide secure and permanent jobs and jobs to young people, and help address domestic violence. I am proud that, for the first time, Queensland businesses which support secure and permanent jobs will be given preference for government contracts over businesses which do not. Businesses tendering for government procurement contracts will need to have a permanent workforce in Queensland. They will need to offer fair wages, conditions and superannuation, and have a good workplace health and safety record.

As a significant investor in our state, the Queensland government has the ability to lead by example. Value for money needs to be considered as more than just price paid, but it is no surprise that the federal LNP member for Capricornia has betrayed Central Queenslanders by condemning our buy local policy, despite the fact it is wholeheartedly supported by the Central Queensland community. I have been calling on the member for Capricornia to show her support for Central Queenslanders by crossing the floor and voting against a motion in federal parliament condemning the policy or bail out of her seat, but the member for Capricornia has stabbed Central Queenslanders in the back by speaking in parliament last week against our policy to boost local jobs.

I am proud to be part of this government that backs local business and supports local jobs and the Central Queensland economy. Queensland's new buy local strategy will ensure taxpayer dollars are spent on local projects and supporting local jobs, but the member for Capricornia and the LNP are hell-bent against it, despite the huge benefits it will have for local jobs and businesses. Our new buy local policy puts local businesses and jobs first. It has even been welcomed by the Chamber of

Commerce & Industry Queensland as 'an absolute shot in the arm for small business'. This is a policy which ensures that when the Palaszczuk government invests money in our local communities money stays locally, to stimulate the economy and support local jobs.

In stark contrast, our federal member for Capricornia calls this buy local policy 'a ludicrous idea' and a 'reckless pursuit of a vote', which just goes to show how out of touch she and the LNP are with Central Queenslanders. The member for Capricornia clearly has no understanding of how this buy local policy works. In parliament last week she tried to link it to free trade agreements, but this policy has absolutely nothing to do with exports. It is all about giving local businesses and local workers the advantage when it comes to procurement for government work.

The member for Capricornia says that the Palaszczuk government has 'already antagonised New Zealand, risking \$5 billion in Queensland exports'. The question is: does the member for Capricornia support jobs in Rotorua or Rockhampton? Our buy local policy does not threaten exports whatsoever. No-one can deny the benefits of buying locally to local jobs and our economy, which is why I think it is ludicrous that the member for Capricornia has spoken in federal parliament against buying local.

In a few weeks time, it is expected that the federal parliament will vote on the motion condemning our policy. Again, I call on the member for Capricornia to support our buy local policy—a policy which will offer huge benefits to our Central Queensland businesses, Central Queensland workers and Central Queensland families.