




Speech By  
**Brittany Lauga**

**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 7 September 2017

**MOTION: BUY QUEENSLAND**

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.39 pm): It is not a gamble, we do give a toss and we are fighting for Queensland jobs by introducing this policy. I believe that every single dollar of the \$14 billion spent by the Queensland government each year should support the economic resilience of Queensland. Every dollar should support secure, permanent jobs. Every dollar should support the opportunity for our local kids to get ahead through training and apprenticeships.

I am proud to be part of this government that backs local businesses 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 projects. I am so angry that the federal member for Capricornia and those opposite are hell-bent against it, despite the huge benefits it will have for local jobs and businesses.

**Mr Mander:** It's a con job. You've been sucked in.

**Mrs LAUGA:** I take that interjection. It is not a con job. It is very serious, and local businesses are very happy about this new strategy.

Our new buy local policy puts local businesses and jobs first. It has even been welcomed by the Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland—the friends of those opposite—as 'an absolute shot in the arm for small business'. The \$14 billion question is: why does the LNP hate Queensland jobs? It is bewildering to understand why our new policy has been met with condemnation by the federal LNP, by those opposite and by the federal member for Capricornia. In fact, the federal member for Capricornia went so far as to make a ludicrous claim on Facebook that this policy is putting Queensland's exports at risk. I table a copy of the federal member for Capricornia's Facebook post where she called the Palaszczuk government's Buy Queensland strategy a 'crazy policy' and shared a link to an article from the *Australian* which reports that New Zealand has moved to take formal action over an alleged trade breach by the Queensland government's new Buy Queensland policy.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, dated 1 September 2017, from the Facebook page of Ms Michelle Landry, in relation to the Premier and Minister for the Arts, Hon. Palaszczuk [\[1627\]](#).

If the New Zealand government wants to take formal action because the Queensland government's new policy prioritises Queensland jobs, then I say to New Zealand and I say to the federal member for Capricornia: be my guest. Be my guest and do your best to condemn our policy, because I will not ever cease to stand up for local jobs. I will never cease to stand up for my community because I was elected by the people of Keppel to stand up and fight for them.

The federal member for Capricornia and those opposite are selling out their Queensland constituents—the very people who elected them—and putting New Zealand ahead of local jobs in Central Queensland. Perhaps Barnaby Joyce is worried about getting his Kiwi relations offside. This policy does not have any implications for any trade agreements. If the federal member for Capricornia, the federal trade minister, the LNP and the New Zealand government want to challenge our determination, then so be it. To do otherwise, like the LNP turning their backs on Queensland jobs and bowing down to New Zealand, is selling out Queenslanders and they ought to be ashamed of themselves.

The Buy Queensland strategy is plain and simple: it makes sure that Queensland companies and Queensland jobs are prioritised when it comes to spending Queensland taxpayers' money. In my backyard that means that if there is a firm in Keppel capable of undertaking the work in Keppel then they should have the best possible shot at winning the work.

Whilst the federal member for Capricornia, the federal trade minister and LNP colleagues are snubbing their nose at local businesses, turning their back on their local constituents and turning down opportunities for our regional economies, the Palaszczuk government has not and never will. I have been unashamedly fighting for better buy local policies for years. I run my own buy local Christmas campaign every year in Keppel in a bid to encourage local people to buy their Christmas gifts locally as opposed to online. I run that campaign every year because I believe in the importance of local dollars being spent in and supporting our local businesses and our economy.

We know that the Buy Queensland strategy will give a real competitive advantage for local businesses. Last week at the Buy Queensland strategy briefing held by the department in Rockhampton, I spoke with local builders, building designers, construction suppliers and engineers about the strategy. They all told me how excited they are to finally be given a competitive advantage when it comes to providing goods and services to government and on government projects. The Buy Queensland strategy unashamedly gives preference to businesses in Berserker before Bangalore, preference to businesses in Parkhurst before Pakistan and preference to businesses in Yeppoon before Yokohama.

No-one can deny the benefits of buying locally to local jobs. The choice is simple: do we want to see Queensland government contracts go to Queensland businesses or should our taxes pay for jobs to go interstate or overseas? It is no surprise that those opposite disagree.

*(Time expired)*