




Speech By
Bruce Saunders

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

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MOTION: BUY QUEENSLAND

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (5.50 pm): Another day—groundhog day—and another utter failure from the Leader of the Opposition to stand up for Queenslanders. He has refused to stand up for Queenslanders' fair share of category D funding. We all know that. We have been following the debate, reading the newspapers and watching media reports on TV for the last few months and he will not stand up for it. He refuses to say whether he will support Cross River Rail. How hard is it for him to say that he supports it? Now he is refusing to support the Palaszczuk Labor government's Buy Queensland policy, and what a great policy it is. This policy is incredibly important for jobs in our state. What do we hear from the member for Clayfield—crickets. We cannot hear him. All we hear from that side of the House is rabble. They say that empty vessels make the most noise, and that is what we have across the chamber.

We all know where he stands when it comes to keeping jobs in Queensland. We know where he stands when it comes to supporting Queensland businesses. That is what he tells us. The truth is that he has never met an asset he did not want to sell out from under Queenslanders and he has never seen a Queensland job he did not want to outsource. His fingerprints were all over the three years of the Campbell Newman era. He was Campbell Newman's right-hand man. I think if we get the CSI in here they will find his thumbprints, his handprints and the lot. The Newman-Nicholls razor gang tried to sell off and outsource everything in Queensland.

Ms SIMPSON: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. I draw your attention to the ruling of the Speaker in respect to correctly naming members in this House. I understand that the member on his feet incorrectly did so. There has been a ruling in regard to that particular phrase. I ask that he withdraw or at least show deference to the ruling of the Speaker.

Mr SAUNDERS: I withdraw, Madam Deputy Speaker. We all know what happens when important contracts are not given to Queensland. Just look at what happened with the member for Clayfield's much lauded cut-price trains from India. Let us talk about those trains. The Deputy Premier has been left to fix their mistakes. They want to talk about these cut-price trains, and we heard the member for Burnett talking about lazy governments. Talk about a lazy government! They outsourced the building of trains. What a great success! In a speech I called them Silly Solly's trains. I apologise to Solly Stanton because he would not have sold them. That is how bad they are. They are probably the worst trains ever, and that mob over there signed the contract. The fingerprints of the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Indooroopilly are all over that contract. They cannot deny it. They have given us the worst set of trains ever in this country.

Let us talk about trains. We just saw \$28 million spent at Downer, in Maryborough, on the upgrade of two tilt trains. I remind those opposite: five million kilometres without a spanner being put on those trains. Those trains never broke down in 20 years service. While they are all animated over there, I invite that mob—

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Order! As difficult as it might be to believe, I am struggling to hear the member for Maryborough.

Mr SAUNDERS: I personally invite the Leader of the Opposition to come up and talk to the men and women of Downer and tell them that this is a bad policy. Come up and meet the 242 workers there. That is a personal challenge to the Leader of the Opposition tonight. Come with me to that workforce, stand in front of those men and women and tell them that this Palaszczuk Labor government policy is bad. Let us see if he has the backbone to stand up to the workers of Maryborough, because they will never forget him and they will never forgive. They like this policy. When I walk down the streets of Maryborough they tell me this is a great policy.

When Labor is in government we look after regional Queensland, and that is something we are doing now. Let the opposition leader come up with me and address the men and women of Downer. I have asked him three times. Let us see if we hear crickets or if he has the backbone to stand with the workers and tell them that this policy is no good. This is a great policy.

Every party has a slogan. Ours is put Queensland first. In my case it is put Maryborough first, but their theme song is 'cut, sell and sack; cut, sell and sack'. You can see them dancing now. I have never seen people who smile and laugh when they sack people. We saw it when they sacked 14,000 public servants. It is absolutely disgraceful. You should all hang your heads in shame. Fourteen thousand workers were sacked and now you want to put more Queenslanders out of jobs. All you want to do is sack people.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Maryborough—

Mr SAUNDERS: Sorry, Madam Deputy Speaker, I am passionate about my city unlike—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Maryborough, please direct your comments through the chair. If the Minister for Multicultural Affairs and the member for Chatsworth would like to have a conversation, perhaps they can take it outside rather than have it across the table.

Mr SAUNDERS: I am very passionate about my city even if that rabble over there are not. They drove it to its knees and Queenslanders will not forget what they did.

(Time expired)