



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Leader of the Opposition**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.27 am): It has only been three weeks since the presidential inauguration and the Trump administration has already thrown a lifeline to the Leader of the Opposition. Welcome to the brand-new post-truth world of LNP alternative facts: the alternative facts you use when you do not like the facts you have. It is very handy when they promise public servants before an election that they would have nothing to fear and then promptly send 14,000 of them to the dole queue after they are elected. It is very useful when they spend tens of millions of dollars advertising the sale of the assets of the people of Queensland without getting a mandate to do so. It is very convenient when they close an adolescent mental health centre against expert advice. They just recast the facts; they reframe the legacy and they rehear the policies, including pretending that 'Can-Do' did not, in fact, turn into a total wreck, tripping jauntily down the road pretending black is white and up is down, pretending that the largest majority in Queensland history that they lost in the election on 31 January 2015 was not that bad at all.

Of course, the greatest exponent of the alternative facts delirium is the Leader of the Opposition. There he is on the bridge of the good ship 'Strong Choices' pretending all is calm when the member for Buderim and the member for Southern Downs are already in the lifeboat. The loyal first mate, the member for Whitsunday, and the loyal lieutenant, the member for Cleveland, want to roll the rope ladder down, but they are not willing to do it just yet. They see the ship take on water, they know the sails are broken and they see a massive hole in the side of the ship blown by the One Nation canon which they know they cannot repair. They begin to doubt the captain's judgement; they are murmuring amongst themselves—that is what they do—but he says, 'I have a plan! I will sell public assets'. But in the game of 'rule in, rule out', of which the Leader of the Opposition is so fond, he cannot rule it out because he believes in it.

This is self-delusion and no-one will forget the greatest self-delusion, the most immortal words of that alternative fact teller Campbell Newman. Remember what he told Queenslanders? They just did not understand what he had done for them. The opposition have heard the LNP-One Nation story before and they know how it ends. They know that alternative facts will not save them. What they need are alternative policies, and what they need most of all is an alternative leader.